Daily Report

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Reagan Issues Statement on Geneva Talks
LD1711010288 Moscow TASS in English 0024 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Washington November 17 TASS—The White House on Wednesday issued U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statement on results of the latest round of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space armaments, which has just closed in Geneva.

The statement said that the sides reached substantial progress at the talks. They concluded and started implementing the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the first treaty providing for the destruction of a whole class of American and Soviet missiles.

At the talks on strategic arms reductions, the statement went on, the sides also advanced toward their goal of ensuring cuts in the most destabilizing nuclear forces—ballistic missiles, especially multiple warhead ballistic missiles.

The President pointed out that the participants in the talks fixed broad and considerable areas of understandings in a joint draft treaty on limitations of strategic armaments, which reflected the areas of agreement reached between him and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev during their meetings in Geneva and Reykjavik and their summits in Washington and Moscow, as well as the progress achieved in the course of Soviet-U.S. ministerial meetings.

The U.S. President said that in the field of limitations of strategic armaments the United States and the Soviet Union were on the path of agreement that would considerably reduce the levels of the strategic nuclear arsenals of the U.S. and the USSR, an agreement on 50 per cent cuts in the deployed strategic forces.

Simultaneously, he admitted that there remained important areas of disagreement. He said these included, above all, mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles, sea-launched cruise missiles, rules for accounting air-launched cruise missiles, sublimits on warheads of intercontinental ballistic missiles, modernisation of heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles, and Soviet attempts to link the treaty on limitations of strategic armaments with provisions that would undermine the Strategic Defence Initiative.

On SDI, the U.S. President said again that the United States would not wrangle over SDI and not accept limitations on SDI that would go beyond the frameworks of those already agreed on in the ABM Treaty.

He said the Soviet Union's unwillingness to dismantle a major radar in Krasnoyarsk continued to arouse serious concern of the U.S.

The President said the radar seriously violated the central element of the ABM Treaty.

The Soviet Union, taking into account the U.S. concern, already proposed to set up an international space research centre in Krasnoyarsk.

Reagan again demanded that the "violation" be corrected in a verifiable way meeting U.S. criteria.

Obukhov Comments on Talks, Remaining Problems
LD1611212688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The 10th round of Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons has ended in Geneva. Our correspondent Vladimir Dmitriyev reports:

[Dmitriyev] The talks, which began in March 1985, were crowned with success in the sphere of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. The corresponding treaty, which was worked out here, was signed in Washington last December. Representatives of the USSR and the United States in Geneva are now drawing up a new document, a treaty on the 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive weapons. The 10th round was intensive in both the number of meetings at various levels and the number of proposals put forward by both sides.

Aleksey Obukhov, head of the Soviet delegation, in a conversation with us described the 10th round as an important stage in the joint work of the Soviet and U.S. specialists. He went on to say:

[Begin Obukhov recording] During this round, work was continued on embodying the accords reached during the Soviet-U.S. summit meetings in Washington and Moscow. Work was also carried out on embodying the results of the Soviet-U.S. meetings at the foreign ministerial level, including the meeting this September. A certain amount of progress has been achieved. Both sides now have at their disposal draft documents which place directly on the agenda the future accord on strategic offensive weapons.

The sides still have to make energetic efforts to resolve the disputed matters that remain. This aplies in the first place to the space question. If one speaks directly about strategic offensive weapons, then still requiring solutions are such problems as restrictions on long-range sea-based cruise missiles and the question of accurately counting long-range air-based cruise missiles.

The Soviet proposals are aimed at ensuring reliable verification that the obligations undertaken are being fulfilled. Concerning the U.S. proposals on verification, a number of aspects are clearly insufficient.

In spite of the questions that remain, the foundation of the building, or the framework of the future accord, has been created. I am convinced that through their joint efforts the two sides can complete the construction of this building without unjustified delays. [end recording]

Inspectors Visit U.S. Cruise Missile Base

LD1611222088 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] A group of Soviet experts on Wednesday completed their inspection visit to an American cruise missile base in Comiso, Sicily. One hundred and twelve nuclear missiles deployed there are to be scrapped under the Soviet-American INF Treaty. That was the second visit to the Comiso base by Soviet experts over the past 4 months.

Delegation Departs Comiso

LD1711034688 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2130 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet delegation which inspected the NATO base at Comiso in Sicily for 24 hours to ascertain what progress had been made in the dismantlement of the Euromissiles equipped with nuclear warheads, in keeping with the agreements between Reagan and Gorbachev, has left Comiso. At the end of the inspection, it was learned that a first batch of 16 cruise missiles destined to be destroyed could leave the Comiso base this week.

INF Inspector Comments on Work in Utah

PM1611095188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by unnamed correspondent under the rubric "IZVESTIYA on the Line": "Our People at the Missile Plant in Utah..."]

[Text] New York—It was an amazing situation: Permission to speak with our military men was given to me by.... the Pentagon.

"Apply in writing," I was told, "explaining what you want to talk about and why. We'll consider it. That's the procedure."

I made out my application, explained what I wanted, and they considered it. They gave me a telephone number.... Thus it was that I called the town of Magna in Utah. That is the site of a missile plant which once produced stages for the Pershing-1 and Pershing-2. There you will also find a group of Soviet inspectors who, in keeping with the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, are checking that nothing similar in size or shape to the first stage of a Pershing missile leaves the plant's premises without being verified. But the first stage of a missile—that is, the casing and the exhaust unit—measuring 3.68 meters in length and 1.02 meters in diameter, could, if you like, be hidden in, say, the back of a garbage truck.

"So do they have to be inspected too?"

"They do," answered Colonel Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Kharlamov, leader of the group of Soviet inspectors.

"Do you have to climb inside?"

"Definitely not. We have technical verification facilities. A television system, for example."

THE NEW YORK TIMES has calculated that since our inspectors began their duties, that is, since 5 July, 200-300 trucks have passed through the plant's gates. "The inspectors' work is very boring," the newspaper remarked.

"Is it boring?" I asked.

"It is strenuous," the colonel replied.

Duty shifts last 12 hours and in the first few months lasted 24 hours each. There are seven people on the shift checking three traffic points. The treaty provides that the inspection teams comprise no more than 30 people.

"What about your team?"

"It has 23 people. We have restructured our work somewhat because we felt that we could cope with fewer people."

Each month one half of the group is replaced. Col Kharlamov is the group's second leader so far. The period of command for the leadership, as I understood it, is 2 months.

"It is difficult when you are here for a long time, far from your homeland and from your family."

However, there is a constant link with home: Once a week either the leader or his deputy flies to our embassy in Washington where he collects the mail, posts letters, and replenishes the collection of videos which they watch in their leisure time.

"What about contacts with the local population?"

"Not bad. I would even say very active. Their attitude toward us is genuine and not prejudiced."

"Have you encountered any hostility or suspicion?"

"I haven't seen any....

"Quite the reverse. For example, there was a great ovation for our inspectors when they attended a concert by the symphony orchestra and choir in Salt Lake City. The conductor addressed the audience and said: There are people from the Soviet Union here with us today."

"Let us return to your work, Vyacheslav Vasilyevich. Have there been any violations of the treaty since our group has been working here?"

"None has been noted."

"Not one?"

"No."

Our inspectors have more than 12 years' stay in Magna ahead of them....

Gerasimov Briefs Press at Foreign Ministry

'Welcomes' PNC Decision

LD1611141388 Moscow TASS in English 1340 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—"The Soviet Union welcomes the decisions adopted by the Palestine National Council," a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing here today.

Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the ministry's Information Directorate, observed that the "highest political forum of the Palestinian people made an important step towards [words indistinct] favorable conditions for a Middle East settlement.

The Palestinian leadership displayed a high degree of realism [words indistinct] essential aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The Palestine Council's decisions, said the ministry spokesman, contained an unequivocal position on such an important issue as the recognition of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which constituted the recognized legal basis for a Middle East settlement.

It also reaffirmed the Palestinian position of rejecting methods of terrorism in all its manifestations, including institutionalized terrorism.

"We especially welcome the profound commitment reaffirmed by the Palestinians towards settling international regional problems by peaceful means in keeping with the U.N. Charter," Gerasimov added.

The Soviet Union had always recognized the Palestinians' right to have their own state, the spokesman said. "We welcome the declaration on the Palestinian state that will be established within the framework of a [word indistinct] comprehensive Middle East settlement.

The decisions of the Palestine National Council confirm before the entire world that the PLO, the only body expressing the Palestinian people's interests and its authoritative political representative, has displayed a lofty sense of responsibility for the destinies of the people, for the destinies of peace in the Middle East."

The last remaining doubts expressed by some quarters concerning the PLO's ability to become a serious partner in the process of settling the Middle East conflict had been dispelled in a clear and authoritative way, the spokesman said.

This process would now receive an additional impetus for its fast development.

Gerasimov also noted that the Soviet Union had got in contact with the PLO leadership and was also considering consulting Security Council permanent members and other states concerned with a view to elaborating further measures to step up efforts that would lead to a practical preparation of an international conference on the Middle East.

Comments on Gorbachev Visits

LD1611143488 Moscow TASS in English 1347 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—The Soviet Union regards the coming Soviet-Indian summit meeting due to be held in New Delhi as another major landmark on the way of the consolidation of a unique friendly interaction of the two great nations, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, stated at a briefing here today.

He said that Mikhail Gorbachev would attend the closing ceremony of the festival of the USSR in India. A program of his visit includes the presentation of the Indira Gandhi peace prize to the Soviet leader. It is planned to sign a number of intergovernmental agreements on bilateral economic cooperation.

Touching upon Gorbachev's speech to be made at a plenary meeting of the regular session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Gerasimov pointed out that the participation of the head of the Soviet state in the work of the session reflected the significance attached by the Soviet Union to that world organization. Gorbachev will set forth in his speech the Soviet Union's approach to the key problems of world development.

The U.N. is increasingly becoming today the centre of a joint quest for the balance of interests in the present-day world. The Soviet Union, Gerasimov continued, is getting more and more convinced that a joint solution of global problems and the advance towards universal security is a practicable idea, and the U.N. is playing a prominent part in its realization.

Gerasimov said that, in the opinion of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev's visit to the Republic of Cuba scheduled for the first part of December would become a landmark in the development of Soviet-Cuban friendly relations and would lead to the consolidation of their bilateral cooperation.

On Nicaragua; UN Resolution

LD1611153288 Moscow TASS in English 1447 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—The coming Soviet-Indian summit meeting in Delhi is viewed in the Soviet Union as a new important milestone in the consolidation of unique friendly interaction of two great peoples, Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, told a briefing here today.

In connection with the fact that Mikhail Gorbachev intends to address a plenary meeting of the session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized that the participation of the head of the Soviet state in the session is an indication of a great importance that the Soviet Union attaches to this world organisation. As to Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the Republic of Cuba planned for the first half of December, the USSR Foreign Minstry spokesman said it is viewed in the Soviet Union as an imoprtant stage in the development of Soviet-Cuban friendly relations. Gennadiy Gerasimov noted that considerable difficulties have been overcome at the talks in Geneva held by Angola, Cuba and the Republic of South Africa with the mediation of the USA concerning the settlement in south west Africa. The participants in the talks showed goodwill toward finding compromise on the basis of balancing interests of all the parties involved in the confict, and a sense of political realism.

The USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the call of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega for the creation in Central America of a zone of peace and neutrality free from any foreign military presence, as well as Nicaragua's readiness to take steps toward the normalisation of relations with the USA, confirmed in Ortega's letter to George Bush, were met with satisfaction in the Soviet Union. These steps confirm the Nicaraguan Government's resolve to promote a peace settlement in Central America, the spokesman said. Gennadiy Gerasimov deplored the fact that the USA declared against a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on the question of creating a zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic, for which the overwhelming majority of the United Nations members voted.

"The Soviet Union attaches much important to the creation of such a zone and is prepared to promote the consolidation of security in the region", he said. "The Soviet representative to the United Nations confirmed again the Soviet Union's readiness to discuss with the USA, with other large naval powers, and naturally, with the (?countries) of the South Atlantic, the question of due measures to implement the call of the General Assembly for the reduction of the military presence in the area, and for non-emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction there".

CEMA-EEC Consultations End in Brussels

LD1611204688 Moscow TASS in English 2034 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Brussels November 16 TASS—Consultations between representatives of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the European Economic Community ended here today. The delegations examined possible areas, forms and methods of cooperation between the two major international economic organizations. Opinions they exchanged enabled them to learn better viewpoints of the sides on prospects for developing relations between the CMEA and the EEC after the signing last June of a joint declaration on establishment of official relations between them.

The sides agreed to continue their contacts.

NATO Assembly Holds Session in Hamburg

Galvin Questions Soviet Policy

LD1511151988 Moscow TASS in English 1501 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev:

NATO allied supreme commander Europe, General Galvin, speaking at a session of the North Atlantic assembly in Hamburg, tried to call in question the fact that practical perestroyka in the military area is conducted in the USSR.

Let us recall that as Chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces Sergey Akhromeyev said, the Soviet Union, in accordance with the Soviet military doctrine, that has become defensive both in form and in content, had embarked on revising the organisational structure of its Armed Forces to impart a defensive character to it, but this process, certainly, takes time. General Galvin cannot be unaware of the fact that the need to ensure effectiveness of this restructuring by qualitative parameters now plays a certain part in Soviet military construction. As regards weapons and equipment, they will apparently be supplied to troops and fleets in a smaller volume and the solution of the tasks of defence must be ensured by a smaller volume of combat systems with a higher efficiency.

An objective person can hardly be against the provision that practical implementation of the principle of sufficiency of defence in the area of armaments must be implemented on two main directions: by unilateral measures of a state and by joint efforts of states belonging to different military-political alliances. There is no doubt that the reduction of armed forces, the change of their structure and deployment, complete implementation of the defence doctrine are possible only in a bilateral way.

This is why talks on conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe are of priority importance for the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation as a whole. These talks should have the task to ensure radical reduction of the military potentials of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO, to ensure such a state of things in Europe under which both alliances will have forces and means sufficient for defence but not enough for a surprise attack and offensive operations. The aim of preventing a surprise attack would also be served by the creation of areas with a lowered level of armaments

along the line of contact of the two alliances, the areas from which the most dangerous destabilizing kinds of conventional armaments would be withdrawn.

Going by Galvin's pronouncements this road does not suit him. He called on NATO countries in Hamburg not to have illusions about the future negotiations on the reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces. The NATO military leader would apparently wish the Soviet Union to disarm unilaterally while NATO countries would build up their armaments. But it is pointless to hope for this. It is only by joint efforts of the sides that tension can be lowered and military strategic stability and security in Europe can be ensured.

Hungarian Addresses Meeting

LD1711003588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1110 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Bonn, 16 Nov (TASS)—TASS correspondents Lev Volnukhin and Nikolay Kalintsev report:

The discussion of 15 draft resolutions on matters included in the agenda has come to an end in the five working committees of the North Atlantic assembly session taking place in Hamburg.

The attention of political observers has been drawn to the speech delivered at the assembly by Gyula Horn, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic. It is the first time in the alliance's history that a speech has been given at such a forum by a representative of a Warsaw Pact country. In his speech, Gyula Horn touched on the problems of cooperation and security in Europe, and further steps with regard to disarmament and strengthening confidence-building measures on the continent. He favored lowering the level of conventional weapons in Europe and cutting the military budgets of the member countries of both military-political groupings.

At the same time, those who would rather continue the confrontation in East-West relations have no intention of laying down their arms. A number of draft resolutions cast doubt on the sincerity of the USSR's intentions with regard to mutually beneficial cooperation with the West, voice unfounded demands for unilateral disarmament by the Warsaw Pact, and contain calls for modernizing NATO's nuclear and conventional weapons. This is also indicated by the "excursion" laid on for the delegates to the border with the GDR. [passage omitted]

UN Endorses South Atlantic Resolution

LD1611113088 Moscow TASS in English 0728 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] New York November 15 TASS—The U.N. General Assembly endorsed by an overwhelming majority of votes yesterday a resolution on the question of a zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. A total of 144 countries voted for with the USA casting the only "no" vote. The resolution, in particular, notes that the questions of peace, security and development are interdependent and indivisible. Therefore cooperation between all states in the interests of peace and development is necessary to help attain the goals of such a zone in the South Atlantic, the document notes. It contains an appeal to all states to refrain from any actions which can complicate the situation, foster tensions or create a conflict in the region.

Presenting the draft resolution on behalf of a large group of Latin American and African countries, the Brazilian representative stressed the importance of the first meeting held by the countries of the zone in Rio de Janeiro this year. The representatives of Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Congo and a number of other countries stressed the need to eliminate the apartheid regime in southern Africa and took note of the danger of Pretoria's nuclear ambitions for all states of the region. Many delegates also pointed to the urgent need to grant independence to Namibia which would also help strengthen peace in this vast region. The representative of Uruguay, speaking about the Malvina (Falkland) Islands, said the dispute between Argentina and Britain over the sovereignty of this archipelago should be settled through talks and called on both countries to start them as soon as possible.

The Soviet Union is attaching great importance to creating a zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic and is ready to take practical measures to promote stronger security in the region, Soviet representative Valentin Lozinsky said. "We reaffirm the readiness to discuss with the USA, other major naval powers and, naturally, South Atlantic states the questions of proper measures to implement the call of the General Assembly to reduce military presence in this region, not to deploy nuclear and any other weapons of mass destruction. Practical steps to ensure guarantees of security of the shipping lanes in the South Atlantic would have great importance," the Soviet representative said. Building up its contribution to solving many complex international problems of our day, the United Nations possesses all the necessary possibilities to help turn the South Atlantic into a zone of peace and cooperation.

Libyan Memo Denies Chemical Weapons Charges

LD1611120088 Moscow TASS in English 1944 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli November 15 TASS—Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, has addressed a memorandum to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the United Nations. It denies the U.S. slanderous allegations vis-a-vis Libya, accusing her of plans to launch chemical weapons production. The Libyan Jamahiriyah, the document stresses, was a victim of perfidious American aggression which, as the international community was able to see, was absolutely unprovoked. Libya has

already declared that such accusations fit into the pattern of the new campaign fomented for the purpose of concocting pretexts for a new aggression. Therefore, the Libyan Jamahiriyah categorically refutes the foregoing allegations of the United States and declares that it is far from the idea of manufacturing any kind of chemical weapons. This had been earlier confirmed in speeches by the leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and in the statement of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison of October 26, 1988. Libya recalls that she is one of the parties to the 1925 Geneva protocol and to the convention banning the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxic weapons and calling for their destruction. She urges all the states that have still not acceeded to these agreements to do so as quickly as possible. Furthermore, Libya again commits herself to observe all the corresponding international agreements and resolutions, reaffirms her readiness to contribute to all the international efforts aimed at banning the production, stockpiling and use of chemical, bacteriological and other weapons of mass annihilation. As reported by the JANA news service, the memorandum requests its publication as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

Conference on Nuclear-Free World Ends

LD1711071188 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi November 16 TASS—By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kapustin:

How can a thermonuclear conflagration be avoided? How can relations based on the principles of equality and justice be established among nations? In what ways can the nascent process of detente and nuclear disarmament be consolidated? These and other vital questions of the present agigating the entire humanity were discussed by participants in an international conference "toward a non-nuclear and non-violent world". Taking part in the conference were representatives of India, the USSR, the USA, China, Britain, the GDR, the FRG, Hungary, Tanzania, Nigeria and more than 20 other countries, as well as numerous international movements for peace and disarmament. They have arrived at the consensus that there is no alternative to the human civilisation but persistent efforts to consolidate peace and security, to curb the arms race.

In his concluding speech, India's Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao emphasized that the Delhi declaration which embodies the ideas of new inter-state relations, is a most important step toward the construction of a nuclear-weapons-free and non-violent world.

In their final statement the participants in the forum noted that the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles has become the first example of nuclear disarmament since the time the atom bomb had been invented. This historic document opened an opportunity for a more radical reduction of nuclear arsenals and in the final account for general and complete nuclear disarmament. But the working out of new kinds of weapons of mass destruction, the use of most up-to-date technologies for military purposes and the buildup of conventional armed forces and armaments continue. The specific feature of the present moment in the historic development is a need to enlist peace forces of the whole world to advance along the road of nuclear disarmament, the document says.

Among specific measures in this direction, the participants in the conference mentioned the conclusion of an international convention banning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, the signing of the treaty on a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing, the outlawing of nuclear weapons, and other measures.

The conference is of much importance from the viewpoint of creating a single platform of various organisations and movements uniting millions of peace supporters, the TASS correspondent was told by president of the World Peace Council Romesh Chandra. An ever greater number of people came to believe in the possibility of disarmament due to positive changes in the international situation that took place over the past two years, the beginning to which was set by the Delhi declaration. The Soviet Union and India advanced concrete programs for the removal of nuclear weapons. Therefore, the coming visit of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Presidium, to Delhi assumes great importance. The new Soviet-Indian summit is called upon to give a fresh impetus to the widening and deepening of Soviet-Indian relations, to the consolidation of peace and improvement of the international situation in Asia and the whole world.

Heads of New Humanitarian Organization Meet

LD1611112688 Moscow TASS in English 0825 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Washington November 15 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin reports:

The first official sittings of the Executive Committee of the International Foundation for the Survivial and Development of Humanity, a new non-governmental organization set up in January 1988, began in Washington on Monday. The foundation was originally the brainchild of Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Jerome Weisner, honorary president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who first put forward their ideas in Moscow in February 1987. They are now, respectively, the chairman and vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of the foundation. The main headquarters of the foundation are in Moscow, but also it has

missions in the U.S. and Sweden. The foundation rallies prominent scientists, businessmen and public organizations, as well as clergymen from most countries.

The heads of the foundation told a news conference at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences about its tasks, spheres of activity and membership composition. Academician Velikhov pointed out: "The main tasks of the foundation include channelling resources for the implementation of various international projects connected with security, environmental protection, socio-economic development, public health, education, energy generation and human rights, to the setting up of various working groups for studying specific problems and their solutions". The financial reserves of the foundation are formed by donations of individuals, public organizations and private firms. Academician Velikhov said that hundreds of papers on the study of various problems had been submitted already for the consideration of the Executive Committee. He said that ten of the most promising projects would be selected for further analysis.

Academician Roald Sagdeev, member of the Executive Committee of the foundation, said in a TASS interview: "The beginning of our work looks promising. This is our first official meeting after the status of the foundation was approved in the USSR, the U.S. and Sweden. The foundation is the first international organization of this type. It is important as well that all the members of the board of directors, including Academician Sakharov, came to attend the first meeting. The idea has been put forward that we should start implementing projects immediately. There are a lot of projects to choose from, and at present we are officialy approving them and selecting the most interesting ones. The projects include joint developments from the scientists, politicians, businessmen and clergymen of the world. I understand that the ten most significant projects will be selected, specificaly those that deal with ways of reducing levels of nuclear armament. The foundation will organize a broad discussion of the projects in an atmosphere of glasnost". The Executive Committee will continue its work on November 15 and 16.

Soviet Delegates Attend Engineering Forum
PM1611142188 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 15 Nov 88 p 3

[TASS report: "Engineers' Congress"]

[Text] Kathmandu, 14 Nov—The first world congress on engineering education and the training of cadres has opened here. Delegates from 37 countries, including the USSR, have come here to take part in the forum. The main aim of the congress is to set up the exchange of information between engineering and technical cadres of various countries and to share experience in training specialists and improving their practical skills.

Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, who addressed the gathering, wished the delegates success and expressed the hope that the congress' work will make an important contribution to expanding scientific and technical cooperation and will promote the improvement of the training of national cadres in developing countries, including Nepal.

"After graduating from a higher educational establishment an engineer does not stop his education," said Academician A.Yu. Ishlinskiy, president of the World Federation of Engineering Societies, the leader of the Soviet delegation. "To remain an engineer he has to constantly improve the standard of his knowledge, keep abreast of science, and master technological innovations. Now, for instance, problems of the ecology, nature conservation, and the processing of industrial waste occupy a special place. All this should be reflected in engineering thinking and in manufacturing processes. It is essential that specialists be informed of new tasks and be able to resolve them successfully."

United States & Canada

Anniversary of Soviet-American Relations Noted

LD1511150488 Moscow TASS in English 1450 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—By a TASS diplomatic correspondent.

The 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the USA that falls due on November 16 coincides with a new important stage of Soviet-American dialogue.

Over a prolonged period of time relations between the two powers had their ups and downs. These relations were developing unevenly also in a relatively recent period of time. The detente of the early 70s was replaced with a period of regress, and it is only in the past three years that favourable tendencies prevailed as a result of intensive efforts.

Not least of all the previous setbacks were also caused by the fact that the sides failed to impart due profundity to changes in relations between them and to link these relations with te fundamental processes taking place in the USSR, in the USA, and all over the world. The models of the conduct of the states in the international scene and their views of each other were not altering in a sufficient degree.

In this sense, the new stage in the development of Soviet-American relations that started three years ago by the meeting of Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan in Geneva differs fundamentally from the previous periods. This stage coincided with a profound perestroyka in the USSR, with the revision of previous approaches and postulates in Soviet foreign policy. It should also be admitted that the U.S. side in the recent past managed to discard some anti-Soviet stereotypes and to impart a more realistic character to its foreign policy course.

The basis for the further advance now consists first of all of fundamental political affirmations by leaders of the USSR and the USA: That a nuclear war should not be unleashed, that both countries are determined to prevent any, nuclear or non-nuclear, war between the USSR and the USA and that the striving for military superiority is inadmissible. It is also of principled importance that an initial concrete step has already been taken on this basis: The treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles has been concluded.

Serious differences still exist between the two countries and not one responsible politician can ignore them. But the task of a realistic policy is precisely to ensure that these differences should not serve as a source of confrontation, but should serve as a reason for a constructivce dialogue, for balancing interests.

A gradual widening of the sphere of the common interests of the two countries is a weighty reason for being optimistic about future. The latest pronouncements by George Bush, president-elect of the USA, sound quite encouraging in this respect. As to the Soviet Union, it is prepared for a constructive cooperation with the United States.

Ryzhkov Receives U.S. Businessman Eaton

LD1511114888 Moscow TASS in English 1112 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Minister of the USSR, received Cyrus Eaton, Jr., chairman of the board of the Cyrus Eaton World Trade Company, in the Kremlin today.

Mr. Eaton arrived in the Soviet Union to discuss with Soviet organisations the company's offer to establish a cultural and tourist centre near Leningrad.

Ryzhkov pointed out that the furtherance of perestroyka as well as positive changes achieved in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States as a result of a number of summit meetings created favourable conditions for expansion of Soviet-American cooperation and contacts in most diverse fields.

It has been noted with satisfaction in the Soviet Union that the American voters declared for an improvement of Soviet-American relations and for a continuation of talks in the field of disarmament, and that U.S. President-elect George bush has stated his intention to steer matters towards the attainment of these goals. This gives ground to hope that the activities of the new administration of the United States, as Mikhail Gorbachev's message to George Bush said, will serve further development of stable and predictable relations between the two countries and an improvement of the entire international situation.

Cyrus Eaton, Jr. drew attention to a positive attitude of the U.S. business community to expansion of trade-and-economic relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, and voiced hope that consistent efforts by the two sides would make it possible to achieve progress in this respect already in the near future.

He expressed satisfaction in view of the improvement of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union and the positive changes in the field of disarmament in the work for which his father had actively participated and had been awarded the Lenin international peace prize in 1960.

Mr. Eaton set out his considerations on a number of specific matters which may spell Soviet-U.S. cooperation.

Nikolay Ryzhkov said that due credit was given in the Soviet Union to years-long efforts of the Eaton family to improve mutual understanding between the two countries, and wished Cyrus Eaton, Jr. successes in the development of Soviet-American business cooperation.

Sakharov: Do Not Interfere With Restructuring

PM1611190188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Shalnev dispatch: "Soviet Academicians in America"]

[Text] New York—The first sessions of the council of directors of the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Mankind—a new nongovernmental organization established in January 1988—have opened here.

"The main tasks of the organization include the appropriation of funds for various international projects in the sphere of environmental protection, socioeconomic development, health care, education, power generation, and the safeguarding of human rights," Academician Ye. Velikhov, one of the organization's founders and chairman of the foundation's council of directors, has emphasized.

The Soviet delegation comprises Academicians R. Sagdeyev and A. Sakharov, who has been presented with the A. Einstein Peace Prize here. The U.S. press is paying the closest attention to A. Sakharov's visit to the United States, as this is his first trip abroad. Not just the first trip since his return from administrative exile in Gorkiy, but his first trip ever.

The academician visited Boston, Massachusetts, spent 2 days in New York, and is now in Washington. The main theme of the academician's pronouncements is the restructuring in the Soviet Union. A U.S. journalist criticized A.D. Sakharov for simultaneously supporting and denouncing the processes which are taking place in the USSR. "How can you do this? Is there not a contradiction in your stance?" "It is not my words which are contradictory," the answer came, "but the situation itself. I deliberately highlight both its positive and its negative aspects so that everything is clear."

It is necessary to keep what is happening in the Soviet Union under observation—the academician is reported by a local newspaper to have said in another statement—but there must be no pressure or interference from the West. Restructuring, the academician stressed, needs support, but it must be support from sober-minded and exacting friends.... It is important to make sure that the highest aims do not get lost.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR has made an interesting comment on these statements. The newspaper wrote in an editorial: "The balanced criticism voiced by Sakharov is instructive for the West, which is trying to work out the correct approach to Gorbachev. Many experts are whispering: 'Gently, gently, as cautiously as possible. Do not forget that you are dealing with a repressive system and not merely with one enlightened leader.' Others, experts too, are calling: 'Make use of the opportunities which are emerging, believe in Gorbachev's sincerity'.... Those who engage in this debate should listen to Sakharov. Few people have been subjected to such an ordeal as he has been, and few have been so uplifted by restructuring."

According to the CBS television network, R. Reagan, receiving Academician A. Sakharov in the White House on Monday, acknowledged that "human rights continue to be a problem in relations between the USSR and the United States," and in the course of their private conversation Sakharov is reported by CBS to have told Reagan that he is very alarmed at the U.S. SDI program at a time when both superpowers are trying to reduce their nuclear arms.

On 16 November the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Mankind council of directors continued its work.

Reagan-Sakharov Meeting Reported

LD1511093788 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0740 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Washington, 15 Nov (TASS)—A meeting has taken place in the White House between Academician Andrey Sakharov, who is in the United States to take part in a meeting of the international fund for the survival and development of mankind, and President Ronald Reagan.

Before the beginning of the meeting, in the Oval Office of the White House, the President positively appraised the democratic transformations that have been started by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, stressing that he is showing greater readiness "for cooperation, than any other Soviet leader preceding him." To the question from one of the reporters: Will questions of human rights remain a sharp problem in Soviet-U.S. relations? Reagan answered: "Of course, until these problems are removed."

After a conversation that lasted about half an hour, Andrey Sakharov made a statement to the representatives of the press who had assembled near the White House. In particular he said:

The meeting with the U.S. President was a great event for me. I found conversation meaningful and very interesting. At the beginning and end of the conversation, I expressed great gratitude to the President for the attention he has been giving questions of human rights in our country. This meeting also made a deep impression on me at the personal level. I realized why the American people relate so well to their President at the personal level.

To the question as to what the future president, George Bush, should or should not do if he decides to continue to devote so much attention to the question of human rights, Sakharov replied: "I cannot answer questions off the cuff. I am not used to the U.S. press. I think everything will be done responsibly and as it should be."

U.S.-USSR Human Rights Seminar 'Successful'

TASS Interviews Zagladin

LD1611123488 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1445 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow, 15 Nov (TASS)—The beginning of the USSR and U.S. parliamentarian seminar was successful, and both sides are being frank, said Steny Hoyer, U.S. Congress House of Representatives member. Immediately following the (?plenary session) [word indistinct] on the 1st day of the USSR and U.S. parliamentarians' seminar on humanitarian cooperation and human rights, Hoyer granted an interview today to TASS special correspondents Vadim Biryukov and Gennadiy Talalayev.

"Vadim Zagladin, Soviet co-chairman of the seminar, briefed us frankly about the Soviet Union's problems in this sphere and we raised a number of problems of interest to the U.S. public and Congress," said Steny Hoyer.

USSR-U.S. relations have improved appeciably over the last 2 years, assisting considerably with the conclusion of the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles, continued the congressman. However, to further improve Soviet-U.S. relations and create an atmosphere favoring progress in arms control and reductions in conventional weapons, it is important to allay the U.S. public's and congress' concern about the Soviet Union's position on human rights.

"I believe that the seminar discussions are being conducted in a non-confrontational spirit, and that is good. We came here to discuss problems not to exchange reproaches," noted Steny Hoyer.

The TASS correspondent also talked with Vadim Zagladin, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Union, and adviser to the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. "The seminar started successfully, although it is clear that far from all the sterotypes and prejudices have disappeared," he said. "This process is a lengthy one, but nevertheless there is an obvious desire on both sides to move forward and not stand still."

"The meeting once again confirmed the importance of reciprocal familiarization with realities. Many observations from our interlocutors were connected with their lack of precise information about what is going on in the Soviet Union," said Vadim Zagladin. "As a positive factor I want to note that the U.S. participants in the seminar attribute great importance to the processes taking place in the Soviet Union and assess them positively."

"It can already be (?stated) boldly that we have a significant convergence of attitudes on the human rights problem, thus stimulating hopes for a successful continuation of the seminar's work," stressed Vadim Zagladin.

Seminar Continues

LD1711052988 Moscow TASS in English 1142 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Moscow November 16 TASS—TASS special correspondents Vadim Biryukov and Gennadiy Talalayev report:

It can safely be said that a seminar of Soviet MPs (deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet) and U.S. congressmen, which opened in Moscow on Tuesday to discuss human rights and humanitarian cooperation, is seeking dialogue rather than confrontation.

"There are no off-limit themes now. We are glad to accept any advice and have any exchange of experience," said Ivan Laptev, member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet and editor-in-chief of the Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA.

Congressman Don Ritter emphasized that he believed in the historical importance of the Moscow seminar, especially at a time when Soviet Academician Andrey Sakharov was freely travelling around the United States, and a group of people had, for the first time, been allowed to meet with U.S. congressmen at the American Embassy in Moscow.

The Soviet side explained to their American counterparts why human rights, and especially political, civil and personal rights, had been violated in the Soviet Union. Stalin's personality cult, his authoritarian rule and the administrative-bureaucratic system which developed in those years were to blame for this. A contributing factor was the hostility of Western countries towards the Soviet Union which encourage purges and general suspicion within the country. The sides noted that the Soviet Union was not the only country affected by the "Cold War": "McCarthyism," "witch hunting" and the McCarran law in the United States were in many ways the result of the influence of "Cold War" confrontation on the United States.

At present, the Soviet Union is trying to overcome the negative phenomena inherited from the past and create a system of legal norms which would establish democratic principles governing relations between man, society and law.

A law ensuring protection from abuse for people needing psychiatric treatment provides a good example of new legislation.

Vadim Zagladin, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet and adviser to the president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said that recent re-examination of 300 Soviet mental patients had shown that the seriousness of the diagnosed illness was exaggerated in 18 cases. The Soviet MP also said that 11 Soviet mental hospitals keeping dangerous patients are to be transferred from the Soviet Interior Ministry to the Soviet Public Health Ministry this year.

Discussion 'Frank,' 'Constructive'

LD1711062188 Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—Questions of how human rights are observed in the Soviet Union and the United States and what is being done in the two countries to guarantee them more fully became the subject of a frank and constructive discussion today between the members of the Soviet Public Commission for Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights at the Committee for European Security and Cooperation and a group of members of U.S. Congress led by Steny Hoyer, member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"There are good conditions in the Soviet Union for social activity in this field now", said Professor Fyodor Burlatskiy, chairman of the Soviet commission, political news analyst of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, said when declaring the meeting open.

"Many draft new laws are being prepared now within the framework of reforms of political and legal systems. Therefore the main direction in the commission's work is actively to participate in the discussion of draft laws. We have come forward with a number of specific proposals concerning refinement of legal protection of human rights".

Another direction in the commission's activities is connected with a new approach to the problem of political prisoners. Fyodor Burlatskiy said that in February this year the commission had requested the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament) to release all prisoners of conscience through an amnesty. As of today, according to the data received by the commission, only two such persons have remained in the Soviet Union.

"However," he pointed out, "there are cases when one person is convicted under several articles, which creates certain difficulties. Nevertheless, the commission intends attentively to study each specific case. With this end in view it got consent from appropriate bodies to visit correctional labour camps to verify facts and is planning to invite foreign colleagues to take part in the inspections."

In an ensuing discussion the members of the Soviet commission voiced their concern over the human rights situation in the United States.

Academician Boris Raushenbakh, member of the commission, drew attention to the fact that the United States practised denying permission to leave the country for reasons of secrecy. Several years ago he had invited his American colleague, a scholar who worked with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) but NASA authorities had not allowed him to visit the Soviet Union.

Soviet upholders of human rights are also worried by the fact that citizens of the USSR who leave the country under the Final Act of the Helsinki conference are granted a humiliatory status of refugees when arriving in the United States. The commission received many letters from Soviet trade union activists whom the U.S. authorities denied entry visas to visit the United States at the invitation of their American counterparts.

Having admitted that the denial of entry visas to trade union activists is a violation of the Helsinki agreements, Congressman Hoyer said the members of the Congress had referred their recommendations on that score to the Administration.

In conclusion of the discussion Fyodor Burlatskiy emphasized that the Soviet commission was prepared to carry on the frank dialogue on all problems but that it was interested not only in critical remarks by American partners but also in the study of positive experience in resolving problems connected with human rights.

With this end in view he suggested that a joint comparative study of the human rights situation in the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as in a number of West European countries be carried out.

Participants Meet Rights Activists

LD1611204888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1335 MT 16 Nov 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In connection with the holding of the Soviet-U.S. interparliamentary seminar, the members of the U.S. Congress in Moscow today met activists of the public commission for international cooperation on humanitarian problems and human rights under the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation. A frank exchange of views took place between the Soviet and U.S. participants at the meeting.

Reagan-Kohl White House Meeting Reported

LD1611065088 Moscow TASS in English 0644 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Washington November 16 TASS—By TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev:

U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Federal chancellor Helmut Kohl met in the White House Tuesday. They discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to bilateral relations and the international situation.

As the U.S. President said upon the completion of the meeting, Kohl informed him about the results of his recent visit to the Soviet Union and talks in Moscow. According to the President, both sides concurred that meaningful progress was attained in East-West relations but much still had to be done in such areas as arms limitation, the settlement of regional conflicts and respect for human rights.

In his turn, the federal chancellor noted that "any kind of worsening of the situation between East and West will be felt like an earthquake in our country.

Reagan and Kohl discussed progress at the Vienna talks on security and cooperation in Europe, which, as Reagan put it, have entered the final stage, and the state of East-West economic relations.

During his stay in Washington the West German chancellor will hold separate meetings with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci. He also intends to meet President-elect George Bush. In his trip Kohl is accompanied by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Defense Minister Rupert Scholz.

Safety Scandal Prompts Announcement on Stealth

PM1611114188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 88 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Sukhoy dispatch: "'Stealth' Aircraft on the Conveyer"]

[Text] New York, 14 Nov—The Pentagon has at last disclosed certain data regarding the top-secret F-117A or "Stealth" fighter. This was due in no small measure to the scandal that has flared up over the violation of elementary safety procedures at the military plant in Burbank (California) where the fighter is made. Workers at the plant, part of the "Lockheed" concern, accused the administration of not caring about the health of personnel. They claimed that the alloys used to manufacture the fuselage of the state-of-the-art "Stealth" fighter are highly toxic and cause dangerous illnesses. Secrets came out.

After some confusion, the military department decided to partially declassify information regarding the production, testing, and purpose of the "Stealth" fighter. Dan Howard, spokesman for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, told journalists that the first F-117A test flight took place in 1981. By early 1983 development of the fighter was complete and the Pentagon ordered 59 aircraft of an improved type from "Lockheed." Howard explained that so far 52 aircraft are in service with the Air Force arsenal.

The F-117A is a single-seater twin-engine aircraft designed for combat operations directly over the theater of war. Journalists were shown a photograph of the fighter taken in flight. The aircraft's tactical and technical characteristics, its cost, and also the composition of the alloys used to coat the aircraft are still secret.

The "Stealth" fighters that have entered the USAF arsenal are part of the tactical air group attached to Nellis Air Force Base (Nevada).

Canadian Nuclear Submarine Debate Reported

PM1711091988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 88 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Shelkov "International Notes": "Passions Run High Over Canada's Purchase of New Submarines"]

[Text] Ottawa, Nov—Canadians recently witnessed an acute debate that unfolded during a CBC TV program. Three men took part in it. They have all been nominated by their parties as candidates in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Conservative P. Beatty, who is Canada's national defense minister, Liberal R. Kaplan, and L. Johnson, representative of the New Democratic Party and a member of the international organization "Generals for Peace and Disarmament," debated the military-political problem of the party's purchase of nuclear-powered submarines—a problem that is of such topicality for the country.

Each of the participants in the debate stood up for his party's viewpoint on this score. As was to be expected, P. Beatty ardently supported the project, whereas R. Kaplan and L. Johnson opposed it. Admittedly, each had different arguments. The clash of positions among the three well-known Canadian figures was an extension of the passions that flared up over the plans for the country to acquire 10-12 nuclear submarines—passions that have not subsided for a long time.

The decision on this purchase was recorded in a government "White Paper" on defense questions made public last summer. Some $8 billion were appropriated for this purpose.

Ottawa intends to acquire the nuclear submarines from Britain or France. British "Trafalgar" submarines or French "Rubis" submarines—that is the dilemma still facing the Canadian Government. The new weapons, the "White Paper" claims, are needed to defend the

country's sovereignty at sea and primarily in high latitudes. In those areas under the Arctic ice floes, where people in the Canadian military department and the Progressive Conservative Party reckon that they will have to counter infringements of territorial waters, whichever side may make these attempts.

The parliamentary opposition parties—the Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party—indicate the existence of alternative options for defending the country's sovereignty. The opponents of the new military hardware and the participants in Canada's peace movement are sounding the alarm in connection with the fact that submarines may involve Ottawa, unwittingly even, in a dangerous military maelstrom.

Their arguments recently won unexpected support from...a representative of NATO naval circles. Richard Sharp, a guest from Britain, spoke at a defense industry conference held in the Canadian capital. JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS, the journal that he edits, specializing in naval subject matter, is considered a most prestigious publication in the West. Thus R. Sharp stated outright that people in NATO have reacted very enthusiastically to the Canadian Government's decision to purchase the nuclear submarines.

The speaker announced that the North Atlantic alliance lacks the capacities to carry out successful ASW operations. Thus, from the NATO viewpoint, 10 or even more submarines belonging to one bloc member is a great step forward in strengthening the combat potential of the North Atlantic military alliance.

In R. Sharp's opinion, the weapons that the Canadian Government has "decided on" possess technical qualities that enable them to resolve any tasks that the NATO leadership may set the country's naval forces.

It follows from this that whatever discussion there is in Canada regarding defending the country's national sovereignty by using these submarines, the NATO military leadership may control these submarines as it thinks best. In that case can one talk about Canada's sovereignty in adopting political and military decisions?

Northeast Asia

Shevardnadze Receives DPRK Deputy Minister

PM1711113488 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Nov Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Meetings at the USSR Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] On 16 November E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and Soviet foreign minister, received Yi In-kyu, deputy foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, staying in Moscow on a visit as head of a delegation of the Foreign Ministry of People's Korea.

The sides discussed urgent questions of further developing bilateral relations and expanding interaction between the two countries in the international arena.

Eduard Shevardnadze called the attention of the Korean deputy foreign minister to the main provisions of Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Krasnoyarsk, which proposed an extensive program of practical actions aimed at setting up mutually advantageous cooperation among all Asian states. Yi In-kyu said that People's Korea fully backed Soviet steps to prevent a nuclear war and strengthen peace all over the world.

In the opinion of the Soviet side, the initiatives put forward by People's Korea on 7 November, which provide for cutting the armed forces of the north and south with a simultaneous, stage-by-stage withdrawal of U.S troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea, and other constructive measures, could be a sound basis for a dialogue on questions of detente on the Korean peninsula. Their realization would contribute both to a peaceful unification of Korea and to a lower level of military confrontation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The talks were held in a warm, comradely atmosphere.

Biryukova Receives DPRK Vice Premier

PM1611140988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Nov 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Friendly Talk"]

[Text] A.P. Biryukova, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received Kim Pok-sin, candidate member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo, vice premier of the Administration Council, and president of the DPRK Light Industry Committee, in the Kremlin 15 November.

Opinions were exchanged on questions linked with improving the effectiveness of Soviet-Korean cooperation in the sphere of light industry and developing new forms of it based on direct production ties between enterprises and associations in the two countries.

Kwon Hui-kyong, DPRK ambassador to the USSR, took part in the talk, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

Increased U.S. Pressure on Japan Predicted

OW1511125088 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Vasilyev commentary]

[Text] Both candidates in the U.S. presidential election took advantage of the widespread discontent with Japanese actions in the economic field during their campaign—that is, they played the so-called Japan card. Both tried to place the responsibility of the huge trade deficit on the opposite camp. Bush predicted that if the Democratic Party took over, the deficit would increase further. Dukakis criticized the Reagan administration's trade policy and placed part of the responsibility on Bush.

The long campaign is over, however, and the propaganda cliches, which are a part of elections, have become a thing of the past. The time has come for serious policies. Where will Japan-U.S. relations lead under the new administration? The decisive factor is the increasing interdependence between the two countries on the one hand, and the acuteness of their antagonism on the other.

From official statements, Bush's victory was received with satisfaction. Such a mood also dominates in business circles. Expectations that Reagan administration policies, which Bush had a part in formulating, will be continued have been expressed. It is believed that a Republican administration, which advocates minimum government intervention in the economy, has a lesser tendency of turning to protectionist policies than the Democratic Party. This gives the impression that in welcoming Bush's victory, the Japanese Government is showing gratification at the lesser of two evils.

Even Reagan's Republican administration did not shirk from protectionist actions. The hiking of taxes on Japanese semiconductor products and the Omnibus Trade Bill, which contains threatening penalties against U.S. industry and business competitors, can be cited as examples. Moreover, the number of the United States' grave problems may well put the next administration's loyalty to the principle of free trade to a serious test. One of these is the huge U.S. national deficit, amounting to $2.5 trillion. It would be unrealistic in such a situation to expect a fundamental improvement in Japanese-U.S. trade. In addition, a contradiction lies in the fact that without Japan's sizable income, the United States would not be able to spend as much—that is, Japan buys up stocks and bonds issued in the United States and thereby makes up for the U.S. budget deficit, props up the U.S. foreign exchange, and with that foreign exchange the United States buys more and more Japanese products. There is no way for the United States to stop this vicious circle without relying on protectionism except by dramatically cutting the budget deficit. Yet this will be almost impossible for some time to come.

On the other hand, the new U.S. president will be forced to acknowledge the widespread discontent over the closeness of the Japanese market. Therefore the new Bush administration, under the same slogan of free trade, is expected to continue exerting concentrated pressure on Japan for the liberalization of its market on a list of commodities, topped by agricultural products. In this regard, the first issue will be free access of U.S. rice, a current headache for Japan. Thus we can agree with the opinion of many experts who predict that under the new administration, U.S. pressure on Japan will be intensified.

KYODO news agency commented on various views of Japanese experts and arrived at the same conclusion. If such a concern becomes a reality, Japan is expected to rely on its time-tested solution of concessions in the military and political fields to ease the confrontation with the United States. The Japanese Government's statement shortly after the U.S. presidential elections emphasizing that relations with the United States remain the basis of Japanese security gives a hint of things to come.

A leading Japanese business figure, Chief Secretary of the Japan Committee for Economic Development Ishihara, expressed the view that in the situation of a decline in the world economy, there is a possibility that the United States will apply even more pressure on Japan to increase its contributions to U.S. military spending. Such a concern is quite common. For instance, Osaka University economist Professor Nakatani also expressed the same opinion.

If we recall that both candidates time and again during the campaign indicated their dedication to power politics, such predictions are not groundless. However it must be remembered that the new president is taking over the administration at a point where the process of nuclear disarmament has been started by the signing of the INF Treaty. Negotiations are presently being conducted on a 50-percent reduction in offensive strategic weapons. We hope that President-elect Bush's promise of continuing this line will become a reality. The American people, the Soviet people, and the Japanese people pin great hopes on the present positive trend. Japanese Socialist Party Secretary General Yamaguchi, for instance, called on President-elect Bush to remove cruise nuclear missiles from the Pacific region.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Gorbachev Departs on Visit to India 17 Nov

LD1711092388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, today left Moscow for Delhi on an official visit of friendship at the invitation of the Indian leadership.

Comrade Gorbachev is accompanied on his trip by Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; Comrade Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Comrade Nishanov, first secretary of Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee; and Comrade Zakharov, USSR minister of culture.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was seen off at the airport by members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, Comrades Vorotnikov, Zaykov, Ligachev, Medvedev, Nikonov, Ryzhkov, Slyunkov, Chebrikov, Yakovlev; candidate members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, Comrades Biryukova, Vlasov, Lukyanov, Razumovksiy, Talyzin, Yazov; by Comrade Baklanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and by other comrades.

Budhwar, India's charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR, was among the seeing-off party.

To Stop Over in Tashkent

LD1711123188 Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Mikhail Gorbachev has left Moscow for India. On his way, the Soviet leader is expected to make a stopover in Tashkent, the capital of Soviet Uzbekistan. [passage omitted]

New Zealand's Palmer Begins Official Visit

Comments on Upcoming Talks

LD1411094188 Moscow TASS in English 0829 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Leningrad November 14 TASS—New Zealand's deputy prime minister Geoffrey Palmer arrived in the USSR on an official visit. He was invited by the Soviet Government. En route to Moscow he spent two days in Leningrad. One of this country's largest industrial, scientific and cultural centers.

In a TASS interview Palmer said that the goal of his first visit to the Soviet Union was to push forward relations between our countries' governments, to promote rapprochement between our peoples, mutual understanding and trust between them.

We strive for the development of cooperation between the Soviet Union and New Zealand to make a contribution toward preserving peace in the Asia-Pacific region, Palmer said. The positive changes taking place in the Soviet foreign policy lately brought about a marked scale down in international tensions. By way of an example he cited such moves as the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, that has gone under way, and the quest for ways to settle the situation around Kampuchea.

Palmer said that Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals aired in Krasnoyarsk drew keen interest in New Zealand. He said his country attached immense importance to the liquidation of nuclear weapons and was, therefore, grateful to the Soviet Union for the protocols on a nuclear-free zone in South Pacific, signed by it.

The deputy prime minister noted that during the visit he intended to familiarize himself with grandiose, as he put it, transformations in the Soviet Union, and also discuss prospects for expanding commerce between the two countries.

Talks With Kamentsev

PM1611112988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Soviet-New Zealand Talks"]

[Text] Talks were held on 14 November between V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and G. Palmer, New Zealand's deputy prime minister, who has arrived in the Soviet Union on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Questions of Soviet-New Zealand relations and certain topical international problems were examined in the course of the talks.

V.M. Kamentsev talked about the progress of the profound transformations in all spheres of Soviet society's life and the solution of problems in the country's socioeconomic development, and acquainted the guest with the implementation of the decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

Discussing Soviet-New Zealand relations, the sides expressed satisfaction with their consistent development and confirmed their intention to promote the broadening and deepening of bilateral ties on the basis of the principles of equality, noninterference in internal affairs, and mutual advantage.

An exchange of opinions took place on ways to further develop USSR-New Zealand trade and economic relations via new forms of cooperation.

The sides advocated activating political dialogue at all levels and exchanges in the spheres of science, culture, education, and sports.

In the course of the exchange of opinions on international questions, a number of problems of the Asia-Pacific region were discussed with the emphasis on ways to ensure peace and stability. The purpose of the Krasnoyarsk initiatives, particularly those concerning problems of disarmament and reducing naval activity, was explained to the New Zealand side.

Meets Shevardnadze

PM1611135988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Nov 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Opinions"]

[Text] A talk was held on 15 November between E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and G. Palmer, New Zealand deputy prime minister, who is on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

During an interesting and frank conversation there was a constructive exchange of opinions on a broad range of topical international problems. Priority attention was devoted to East-West relations, their evolution under the influence of restructuring in the USSR and the general improvement in the international situation, disarmament problems, and the state of affairs in the Asia-Pacific region. Regional conflicts were touched upon.

Both sides expressed the common opinion that the implementation of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles is having a positive impact on the political climate in the world and creating a qualitatively new situation in the disarmament sphere. It is now important to maintain the pace of the disarmament process.

During an examination of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, the importance of collectively seeking ways to ease tension, strengthen security, and organize peaceful cooperation in this part of the world in the spirit of the new political thinking was noted. The interlocutor's attention was drawn to the new Soviet initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Krasnoyarsk.

The Soviet side stated its understanding for the efforts made by the New Zealand Government in accordance with its national interests to prevent the growth of the nuclear threat in the South Pacific. The New Zealand side welcomed the Soviet Union's ratification of Protocols 2 and 3 of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Free Zone in the South Pacific.

Questions of the further development of bilateral relations in various spheres were touched on during the talk. Both sides unanimously advocated the expansion of mutual contacts and ties and the continuation and deepening of political dialogue.

The same day there was a concluding talk between V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and G. Palmer.

The results of G. Palmer's meetings with representatives of a number of Soviet ministries and departments and Soviet and New Zealand business circles were summed up, and ways to expand trade and economic relations between the USSR and New Zealand were outlined.

The talks was held in a friendly atmosphere.

G. Palmer's talk was held at the CPSU Central Committee International Department.

The guest visited the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The same evening G. Palmer left Moscow for Vladivostok. He is on an official visit to our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

He was seen off at the airport by V.M. Kamentsev and other officials.

Welomes Foreign Policy Changes

LD1611130488 Moscow World Service in English 0710 GMT 16 Nov 88

[From the "Focus on Asia and the Pacific" program]

[Excerpts] Mr Geoffrey Palmer, deputy prime minister of New Zealand, continues his official visit to the Soviet Union. After Leningrad and Moscow, where he met his Soviet counterpart Mr Vladimir Kamentsev, Mr Palmer plans to visit Vladivostok, where a team of experts and businessmen from the New Zealand-USSR Business Council are working these days. Mr Palmer:

[Begin recording] [Palmer] The changes in Soviet foreign policy have been greatly welcomed by the New Zealand Government. It's clear that perestroyka affects every aspect of Soviet life and (?that) glasnost and perestroyka and democratization have affected foreign policy in quite dramatic ways. We welcome the new approach to international law; we welcome the increased interest in the Pacific region. What we want is a nuclear-free Pacific and what we are very grateful about is the Soviet Union's desire to, and its action, in ratifying the protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga, which provides for a nuclear-free Pacific. We have regarded that as a very positive act by the Soviet Government in our part of the world. All the nations of the South Pacific forum have expressed their abhorrence of nuclear weapons in that area and the action of the Soviet Union in ratifying that treaty is one that we applaud and we are grateful for. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Interviewer] You discussed our Krasnoyarsk initiatives in the Kremlin with Mr Kamentsev. They are actually a development of a previous initiative formulated in Vladivostok 2 years ago. What would you say about the predictability of the Soviet foreign policy?

[Palmer] Well, it's a very good thing to have a predictable foreign policy. It enables other nations to make their plans on the basis that they can know what to expect, and indeed there is a rapprochement between the two superpowers that is very helpful for the little nations like ourselves, because we can't influence relations between the superpowers. It would be idle to think that we could.

But what we can do is to make our plans on the basis that it appears that certain arrangements, certain agreements, certain disarmament proposals and certain strategic agreements are reached between the two powers and that helps stability in the world, and we welcome anything that does that. Well, I think the overall meaning is positive, but there are some things in those packages that we wouldn't agree with.]

[Interviewer] After Leningrad and Moscow, how would you assess your visit so far?

[Palmer] I think it's been very successful and quite significant. We are going to have improved relations between the Soviet Union and New Zealand; we are already seeing the fruits of that improvement. We need to have more dialogue, we need to have more understanding of each other, we need to have more contact with each other. There is no capital more remote from Moscow than Wellington—it is a long way away. And when you are a long way off it is difficult for each other to understand one another because they are not familiar.

[Interviewer] You want us to be closer?

[Palmer] Yes, I do. But we cannot change geography.

[Interviewer] Thank you very much, Mr Palmer. [end recording]

Near East & South Asia

Sudanese Groups Sign Agreement on Ending Civil War

LD1611231088 Moscow TASS in English 2254 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Addis Ababa November 17 TASS—The leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), John Garang, and the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of the Sudan Government coalition, Muhammad Usman al-Mirghani, signed an agreement in the Ethiopian capital Wednesday on ways to end the civil war in the country.

The SPLA has been fighting the Sudan Government since 1983, upholding political and civil rights of the non-Muslim population of the country's south.

The agreement emphasised that the problem of south Sudan was national and could be solved only on the basis of dialogue between political forces of the country which are to take part in the SPLA-proposed constitutional conference.

The sides said the conference should be convened without delay, before the end of 1988.

The SPLA and the DUP urged all political forces in Sudan to join their agreement with a view to achieving an early peace in the country.

PRAVDA Reports on PNC Decision To Create State

PM1711103988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Nov 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent S. Filatov article under the rubric "We Report the Details": "Palestinian State Proclaimed"]

[Text] Algiers, 15 Nov—A portentous event in the history of the Palestinian people took place tonight. At 0130 in the Palace of Nations near the Algerian capital Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on behalf of the Palestine National Council [PNC] proclaimed the creation of a Palestinian state. The Palestinian national anthem was played and its national flag hoisted for the first time under the vaults of the large auditorium where the PNC extraordinary session was held.

It was on this cheering note that the extraordinary PNC session, which had adopted important decisions opening a new page in the Palestinians' struggle for their legitimate rights, ended. These decisions may also influence the development of the Near East situation as a whole. In the words of prominent PLO figure Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the proclamation of an independent state will again draw attention to the Palestinian question both in the Arab countries and on a world scale, and will also allow the Palestinian state to become a full participant in international forums.

Observers and commentators covering the session's work are stressing the paramount importance of the political declaration which formulated the principles for the PLO's activity at the present-day stage. It stresses the resolve to strive for a comprehensive political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core—the Palestinian problem—within the framework of the principles and norms of international legality and international law, UN Security Council resolutions, and the decisions of the Arab summit conference, which reaffirm the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The document points to the need to convene an international conference on the Near East based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with a guarantee for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights—above all, their right to self-determination. As is well known, Resolution 242 talks of the need for guarantees of sovereignty and political independence for all states in the region—that is, including Israel.

The PNC session called for an Israeli troop withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967—including East Jerusalem—and the handover of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Arab Jerusalem to PLO control for a certain transitional period. The declaration sharply condemns international terrorism.

Together with the proclamation of independence the PNC session adopted a resolution on the creation of a Palestinian Government. This government will be formed later; an official PLO representative stated at a press conference that it will represent our people at the international peace conference on the Near East whose convening is one of the PLO's main aims.

The same night the young Palestinian state was recognized by Algeria—the first country to take this step. Algerian Foreign Minister B. Bessaieh read out an official statement on this question in the auditorium. The independent Palestinian state has also been recognized by the Arab League, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Tunisia, and Turkey.

The Algerian press notes today that the adoption of these decisions at the PNC session was possible thanks to the new conditions prevailing above all in the occupied territories, where a popular Palestinian uprising has been continuing for a year now.

Reaction to Bhutto Victory; Election Commentary

Pogodin on Election Outcome

LD1711095688 Moscow World Service in English 0910 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] As a result of parliamentary elections held in Pakistan on Wednesday, the Pakistan People's Party, the PPP, has left its major rival, the Islamic Democratic Alliance, far behind. In other words, the opposition defeated the political forces which backed the virtually totalitarian 11 years rule of General Ziaul Haq, who died in an air crash last August. Aleksandr Pogodin comments:

The outcome of the election is rather unexpected, though many observers predicted success for the PPP led by Benazir Bhutto, daughter of the vastly popular Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, executed by the Ziaul Haq regime; few people believed that her victory over her major political adversary, would be so overwhelming. In their first commentary, news agencies describe the result of the parliamentary elections first of all as a sharply negative reaction of Pakistani society to the difficult years of military dictatorship. The Pakistani public evidently links its striving for changes primarily with the activity of the main opposition party, the PPP.

Judging by the election returns, Benazir Bhutto will have to seek parliamentary support among smaller groupings and most analysts believe that this task is quite accomplishable. A future government will have to resolve extremely complicated problems in order to turn Pakistan into an up to date developed state as the PPP promised during its election campaign. The country's foreign policy directions will be particularly essential not only to Pakistan itself but also to the world at large. The election returns make it possible to presume that the calls of the Islamic Democratic alliance to go on with interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and with the endeavors to create a powerful arsenal of nuclear weapons have found no support among the public. As for the PPP during its election campaign it was extremely cautious and restrained when outlining its stand on foreign policy issues. As regards the Afghan problem, it expressed in general terms its intention to act in compliance with the country's international commitments. If these statements materialize into compliance with the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, this will pose an important contribution to the efforts to stabilize and normalize the situation in the region as a whole.

Belyayev Previews Elections

PM1611103088 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Nov 88 p 9

[Political observer Igor Belyayev article under the rubric "Viewpoint": "Circumspect Elections"]

[Text] On the day that the reader receives this issue of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, parliamentary elections will be in progress in Pakistan. The first elections on a party basis since the death of President Ziaul Haq on 17 August of this year. I am not going to predict their outcome. The fact is that the domestic political situation in Pakistan on the eve of the elections was extremely tense. Thus back in October there was carnage arising from ethnic discord in Hyderabad and Karachi. Some 250 people died as a result of real battles. You can imagine the intensity of the political struggle in the country, because no religious battle in Pakistan can bypass politics. Although the fighting was only between the inhabitants of the provinces of Sind and the richer, more educated muhajirun from India. Let me note here: Surprising as it may appear, the "Indian factor" did not play the part it usually plays in the election struggle. There was much talk about the origin of these disorders. People pointed out, in particular, that they could be advantageous to the Army, which could have intervened. Nothing of the kind happened. The Army in Pakistan, at least outwardly, tried to remain outside politics throughout the political struggles preceding the election. Mirza Aslam Beg, the new ground forces chief of staff, called on his men to promote Pakistan's transition to democracy...

Of course, the main attention of everyone who carefully watched the election struggle in the country was focused on the speeches of representatives of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and especially its head, Benazir Bhutto. The daughter of Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was executed by Ziaul Haq after the latter came to power, returned to the country from voluntary exile more than 2 years ago. She was greeted with rapture in Pakistan. And to this day the sympathy toward her because of her father's "martyrdom" has not disappeared.

The PPP manifesto is highly unusual. It contains everything—caution and a great many compromises and promises. In particular, the promise to revive the 1973 Constitution and put an end to all forms of discrimination against women, and also to bring laws concerning the individual into line with the requirements of socioeconomic reforms. A very unusual dualism has been declared by the PPP. Its faith is Islam, its ideology socialism. There are also promises to meet the main living requirements of the people's masses...

The PPP's main rivals are the Pakistan Muslim League, which forms a bloc with the biggest religious party, Jama'at-i-Islami. The head of the league, former Prime Minister Junejo, is well known to us. His actions as Pakistani head of government led to the signing of the well-known Geneva accords aimed at resolving the problems over Afghanistan. And to the continuation of support for the Afghan opposition. The Pakistan People's Alliance plus the smaller Islamic parties came out independently.

The election system in Pakistan is complex. It is hardly worth going into it in detail or evaluating it. I will only say that elections have not been held on a party basis in Pakistan for 11 years. They could end in the most unexpected results. Incidentally, constitutionally the president could propose the formation of a government by any party, even one that does not have a majority. I believe this feature should be taken into account.

One would like to hope that the present parliamentary elections in Pakistan will lead to real changes for the better in the country's policy on Afghanistan. The Pakistani representative's signature on the Geneva agreements should at last become a guarantee of their fulfillment. Yes, by Pakistan. What we have seen happening in the 6 months since the start of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingent from Afghanistan indicates otherwise. Pakistan has systematically failed to fulfill the Geneva agreements, remaining the main base for Afghan counterrevolutionary forces supported by the United States. One would like to think that in future the country's policy will be determined by wisdom and far-sightedness, and in particular that there will be a desire to settle all the problems over Afghanistan, as well as the problems concerning the return home of the captured Soviet soldiers who are on Pakistani territory. There is no obstacle to the implementation of such a policy—from either Afghanistan or the Soviet Union.

Moscow 'Compelled' To Counter U.S. in Afghanistan
LD1611233288 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Yuriy Solton Commentary]

[Text] Six months ago, on 15 May, the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan entered into force. They stipulate (?in essence) for ending any kind of outside interference in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan, and the withdrawing in the next 9 months the Soviet military contingent, staying there on the request of the Kabul Government. The accords were signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Soviet Union and the United States became guarantors of those agreements. The United Nations Organization took upon itself the role of supervisor in the accords' implementation. How effective have the Geneva Accords proved to be? Yuriy Soltan has this comment, and this is what he writes:

There can be no questioning of the significance of the accords. The fact that there is no peace in Afghanistan can in no way be attributed to the ineffectiveness of the agreement. The point is that not all the states who signed them follow their provisions. As it was envisaged by the accords, the Soviet Union had withdrawn half of its military contingent by 15 August. The Kabul leadership has stepped up its national reconciliation policy. It has also proposed that a broader coalition government be set up, agreed to have talks with the opposition on neutral ground, and called for turning Afghanistan into a demilitarized, neutral, and nonaligned state.

What has been the response of other participants in the agreement, Pakistan and the United States? The two respond with crude violations of the accords. With the direct support of Islamabad, more units of the opposition undergo training on Pakistani territory, and are sent to Afghanistan to commit acts of terror there, and murder residents of cities and villages. These units get in large quantities the most modern American and other weapons, including latest missile systems, rocket launchers guided to targets from space, and recoilless weapons. Residential areas of Kabul and other Afghan cities are shelled practically every day. Cases are not rare when Pakistani servicemen are involved in battles.

Afghanistan's territorial integrity is being threatened. The Pakistani circles are hatching a plan to revise Afghanistan's borders, divide the sovereign state into spheres of influence, and into separate tribal communities. Pakistan and the United States are provoking the situation which can generally frustrate the schedule for the implementation of the Geneva Accords. Moscow and Kabul are compelled to take countersteps. The Afghan Army has been equipped with powerful Soviet long-range missiles. As it has been announced, the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingent has been stopped temporarily.

I think, writes Yuriy Solton, that the situation in and around Afghanistan requires urgent steps on the part of the United Nations Organization. Kabul has turned to the United Nations Security Council with a request to consider urgently the implementation of the Geneva Accords, and convene an international conference on Afghanistan, where the question can be studied about granting Afghanistan guarantees of its neutral status.

Moscow has given its backing to the Kabul initiative. Will the United States and Pakistan meet Afghanistan half-way? There is no indication so far that they will, writes Yuriy Solton.

Afghan Minister on Pakistani Interference

LD1611181088 Moscow TASS in English 1756 GMT 16 Nov 88

["Interview by Afghan Foreign Minister"—TASS headline]

[Text] Kabul November 16 TASS—Immediately after the signing of the Geneva accords Pakistan's Government assumed the course at the violation of the agreements achieved, in particular on non-interference and non-intervention. Afghanistan's Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil said this in an interview to TASS Correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy. Afghanistan's foreign minister said that Islamabad has been and is interfering directly in Afghanistan's internal affairs, supplying the opposition with weapons and sending armed and trained terrorists across the border.

"As is known, the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan pledged themselves under the Geneva Accords to facilitate voluntary, orderly and peaceful repatriation of Afghan refugees", the minister went on. "Pakistan, however, has not taken any constructive steps. Moreover, immediately upon the coming into effect of the Geneva Accords it blocked all refugee camps with the use of the extremist opposition staying on its territory, promoted penetration of Afghanistan by border militia in the Pakistani service and staged other hostile actions. In this way the Pakistan leadership tries to compel refugees to stay in Pakistan's territory so that they could be used by the Pakistan leadership and leaders of Afghan opposition groups as a reserve for armed gangs. Despite all these obstacles, nearly 170,000 Afghan refugees have already returned home.

"The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan stated many times its readiness to set up mixed commissions envisaged by the Geneva Accords," the minister said. "However, the Pakistan Government has not taken any measures in this respect. We hold that considerable opportunities for the repatriation of Afghan refugees will be created if such commissions are formed with the assistance of the United Nations and other international organisations," 'Abdul Wakil said.

The minister assessed the supply of rebels with up-to-date arms in ever growing volumes and the sending of ever larger numbers of armed groups and military advisers to the Afghan territory as gross violations of the Geneva Accords by the United States and Pakistan.

Noting that difficulties arose also in repatriation of refugees from Iran, the minister emphasized that the problems now existing in Afghanistan result from Pakistan's avoiding cooperation, from Iran's unwillingness to promote settlement and the continued interference of the United States and Pakistan in Afghan's internal affairs.

Afghanistan sends notifications about all violations of accords to the United Nations mission monitoring the observance of the implementation of the Geneva Accords. But the results of the activity of the U.N. mission for the investigation of facts of the violations cannot be described as effective and satisfactory so far, 'Abdul Wakil noted. This situation results mainly from the stand of the Pakistani side which under various pretext creates artificial obstacles to the necessary investigation.

'Abdol Wakil also set out the stand of the Afghan side on the question of the United Nations resolution on Afghanistan. He said, specifically, that the contents of this resolution results from a new atmosphere created by the policy of national reconciliation conducted in Afghanistan and by the Geneva Accords. The document registers the consensus of the international community that it is only the recognition of the need preserving independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty and a neutral status of the Afghan state that can serve as a real basis of a peaceful political settlement of the situation related to Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the adoption of this resolution by the United Nations and views it as a new important step toward settlement. 'Abdul Wakil expressed the hope that the United Nations resolution, alongside the Geneva Accords, will be reflected in real steps toward settlement. It is necessary for this that the aforementioned documents be observed not only for the Repubiic of Afghanistan and the USSR but also by the United States and Pakistan.

Shevardnadze Receives Afghan Envoy 16 Nov

LD1611180488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Today Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Foreign minister, received Golabzoy, ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan in the USSR, in connection with the upcoming presentation of his credentials. During the conversation, which took place in a warm, friendly atmosphere, they expressed satisfaction with the continuing development of Soviet-Afghan relations and cooperation in different spheres and confirmed our countries' mutual striving to deepen them and enrich them with new forms and content. They stressed the firm adherence of the Soviet Union and the republic of Afghanistan to the line they pursue to achieve an all-embracing Afghan settlement and the normalization of the regional situation. They noted that the scrupulous fulfilment of the Geneva Accords by all participants and, first of all, by the Pakistani side, is an inalienable condition for the positive advancement of this process.

Great value was attached by the Soviet side to the latest initiatives by the Afghan leadership aimed at accelerating the process of finding a political settlement to the Afghan problem, and at setting in motion a constructive dialogue with the opposition forces. It was announced that the Soviet Union supports the idea, proposed by Afghanistan, of holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations Organization to confirm Afghanistan's status as a neutral, demilitarized state.

The ambassador, in the name of his government, expressed deep gratitude to the Soviet Union for its consistent help and support, with all the means at its disposal, to defend the sovereignty and integrity of Afghanistan and to reconstruct the national economy, which was undermined by war. They discussed questions of further improving bilateral economic, trade, and technological cooperation by raising its efficiency, extending its range, and searching for new, mutually beneficial forms and directions. Comrade Shevardnadze wished the ambassador success in his responsible work, in the interests of strengthening the traditional friendship and good neighborliness between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, between the peoples of our two countries.

Afghan Demilitarization Plan Praised

LD1711042188 Moscow TASS in English 1618 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—By TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov:

Kabul has put forward a major new initiative to stop the fratricidal war, to bring peace and tranquility to Afghan soil. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan proposes that an international conference be held under U.N. auspices. The government also proposes that the conference should consolidate Afghanistan's status as a neutral and nonaligned state and draw up a demilitarisation programme to be completed under international supervision.

Kabul's proposals are topical. The situation in the country is very tense, unpredictable and possibly explosive. The situation has grown more complicated in recent times. Contrary to the Geneva agreements neither Washington nor Islamabad has stopped intefering into Afghanistan's internal affairs, they even stepped up their support for the Afghan armed opposition. The opposition are continually receiving new consignments of American weapons, including anti-aircraft Stinger units and new ground-to-ground missile launchers with a range of up to 60 km, new heavy mortars and guns. All these weapons are being delivered to Pakistan and from there—to Afghanistan.

Islamabad is grossly violating the basic provisions of the Geneva agreements, not only permitting transportation of weapons through its territory, but even providing its armed forces' motor vehicles for this purpose. It stores the new weapons in its army depots, and helps send weapons and ammunition to Afghan territory.

A dangerous stockpile of the most up-to-date weapons is growing in the region, in the hands of irresponsible and ambitious armed opposition leaders, imperilling not only Afghanistan, but also its neighbours and international security in general.

International recognition of Afghanistan's status as a nonaligned and neutral state would help thwart designs of certain circles in Pakistan and Iran, which entertain hopes of a change in Afghanistan's frontiers and its division.

Kabul's demilitarisation programme would undoubtedly promote peace and tranquility in the region.

Afghan Planning Minister Lauds Soviet Aid

PM1511114588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Nov 88 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Sultan Husayn, Afghan minister of planning, by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Oliynik in Kabul: "How Friendship Is Tested"; date not given; first three paragraphs are unattributed introduction]

[Text] Kabul—Today there are 320 industrial, power engineering, transport, agricultural, and other facilities on the Afghan economic map that have been constructed with aid from the Soviet Union. Some 140 of them have already been commissioned. The largest are the two gas fields in the north of Afghanistan, a plant producing nitrogenous fertilizers at Mazar-e Sharif, the "Naglu" hydroelectric power station that supplies Kabul with electricity, Jangalak's automobile repair plant, petroleum product storage and distribution centers, more than 1,500km of highways, and many other facilities. The facilities constructed with USSR aid provide 100 percent of the gas extracted, carbamide produced, and large-panel housing construction items made, 60 percent of the electricity generated, and so on.

All these facilities belong entirely to the Afghan people. In offering economic and technical aid, the Soviet Union together with other socialist countries is helping to strengthen the Afghan national economy and reinforce its independence of foreign monopolies. For instance, the nitrogenous fertilizer plant at Mazar-e Sharif is the country's largest industrial enterprise. It supplies agriculture with high-quality fertilizers. The modern airport at Kabul and the river ports at Shir Khan and Hayraton on the border Amu Darya river, used by the main bulk of passenger and freight cargo, which were constructed with the USSR's assistance, work very effectively.

Unfortunately, more than 150,000 tonnes of construction materials and industrial commodities have accumulated at Hayraton's staging bases owing to intensified opposition from the counterrevolutionary forces, the

opposition "fifth column," and also owing to the inefficiency of the Afghan organizations themselves, and departmental confusion. Approximately 1,400 carloads of freight coming from all over the Soviet Union to meet Afghanistan's needs are waiting on the tracks at Termez. President Najibullah has now decided to create an extraordinary commission to import and distribute Soviet goods and materials throughout the country's provinces. Because it is particularly important for the large amounts of Soviet aid, including aid supplied free, to reach the strata of the population for whom it is intended—ordinary peasants, nomads, and refugees returning home from abroad.

"What are the features of Soviet-Afghan economic cooperation at the present stage?" I put this question to Sultan Husayn, Afghan minister of planning.

"Today economic and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan has assumed a broad scale and encompasses virtually all sectors of our country's national economy," Sultan Husayn said. "It is developing on the basis of the Long-Term Program for Economic, Technical and Trade Cooperation Between the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan, signed by the republic's Prime Minister M.H. Sharq during his visit to Moscow."

Its main areas encompass transport, power generation, irrigation, agriculture, education, public health, mineral prospecting and extraction, repair and restoration work in war-ravaged cities and villages, and bridge and highway construction. The long-term program provides for the resolution of such major tasks as the development of the "Aynak" copper deposits, the assimilation of barite deposits in Sangilan, the construction of power stations on the Kabul, Konduz, and Kochak rivers, and the creation of a number of large reservoirs.

The Soviet Union grants state credits for development purposes on preferential terms. These credits are paid off with traditional Afghan exports and output produced at Soviet-Afghan cooperation projects. These include gas, carbamide, citrus fruits, olives, and also wool, cotton, raisins, and carpets.

Economic and technical cooperation promotes the further development of Soviet-Afghan trade. Commodity turnover in recent years has risen by more than 200 percent. In 1987, for instance, it totaled approximately $940 million. This year contracts worth more than $1 billion have been concluded between our countries. Supplies of goods from Afghanistan's private sector occupy an important place in Soviet-Afghan trade. This has been facilitated by the creation of the "Aftorg" and "Aftento" joint stock trading companies, which help broaden cooperation between the USSR and local traders and entrepreneurs.

"The people of Afghanistan value highly Soviet economic aid," Sultan Husayn said in conclusion. "Our people will never forget their great northern neighbor—the Soviet Union."

"A real friend is someone who extends a helping hand in time of trouble," says the Afghan proverb. However foreign disinformation specialists may try now, they cannot belittle or denigrate the Soviet Union's selfless internationalist aid to the Afghan people, who are now proceeding along the difficult path of national reconciliation. Soviet-Afghan cooperation expanded and assumed new forms with the start of the withdrawal of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops from Afghanistan on the basis of the Geneva agreements.

Correspondent Reviews Afghan Situation
LD1411111188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Nov 88

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Vsevold Ovchinnikov; with video report by M. Leshchinskiy in Kabul]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Concerning Afghanistan, the positive development of events is threatened by the violation of the Geneva agreements, the opposition is stepping up military activity supported by the flow of arms from Pakistan. Towns and villages are attacked with missiles, and subunits of Soviet troops are also attacked. Under these conditions both Moscow and Kabul had to adopt measures in response. Those in opposition to reconciliation have already experienced strikes from the more powerful Soviet weapons. Today we have an opportunity to hear about all of this first hand. Mikhail Leshchinskiy, correspondent for Moscow television and radio in Kabul, is on the line. Hello, Mikhail Borisovich.

[Leshchinskiy] Good day.

[Ovchinnikov] I would like to ask a few questions.

[Leshchinskiy] I am ready.

[Ovchinnikov] First of all, how was the arrival of the new Soviet military equipment in Afghanistan received?

[Leshchinskiy] Well, I have to say first of all that we witnessed the arrival of this equipment from the very start—from the moment when the [word indistinct] and arms were transported through the streets of Kabul to the launching positions up to the first launches of these weapons. I must say that from those first minutes in the streets of Kabul two feelings could be sensed from looking into the eyes of the people.

On the one hand, this was a precise and simple reply of Kabul authorities to a number of questions arising in the period of ever deteriorating situation when Kabul and large towns are being shelled, when peaceful people are

being killed daily—I think that these arms are a reply to such questions and that people in general are satisfied in particular with this aspect in the sense that it has been made quite clear to opposition forces that to their kind of purely military attempts, so to speak, a clear, strict, and powerful reply will be given.

On the other hand, people are people, and more so in Afghanistan where the war has lasted more than 10 years and there is no end to victims, and they realize that these arms will bring death to the opposition camp where many of them have relatives. Therefore, there are fears that some kind of escalation of military actions will possibly take place. Although, I would like to say that the use of these arms by the Afghan side is a warning than anything else.

[Ovchinnikov] Our television viewers are also interested in whether the existing situation will be reflected in the timetable of Soviet troops withdrawal?

[Leshchinskiy] Our regular viewers may remember that a few months ago I expressed an assumption that the second stage of troop withdrawal from Afghanistan would start on 15 November. But I made such conclusions, such forecasts, on the basis of simple calculations: In the first stage half of our troops were withdrawn and this period lasted 3 months. If we speak about 15 February and work our calculations back the same 3 months then the date is 15 November. However, you know one can say, that the withdrawal has been halted, although no one doubts the final date stipulated by the Geneva agreements. By the way, the agreement stipulates only this date, 15 February, there are no other dates. We do not in any way violate the agreements by varying the times of withdrawal based on the conditions which are created in the country. Conditions at present are such that I say directly, they do not lend themselves to the withdrawal of our troops. The military-political situation has deteriorated sharply—the terrorist and purely fighting activities of the armed opposition have increased sharply. On this point I would like to give you the latest information, so to speak: Today, literally a few hours ago, a visit to Afghanistan by Oleg Dmitriyevich Baklanov, CPSU Central Committee secretary, ended. He headed a very representative delegation, I think, which consisted of ministers and senior staff of the CPSU Central Committee. And the talks were about how to use our and Afghanistan's joint efforts, the possibilities of our cooperation in all spheres including the military and economic spheres to assist the creation of peaceful conditions in Afghanistan and to assist the fulfillment of the Geneva agreements fully.

[Ovchinnikov] The last question: How would you characterize the role of the PDPA in the political life of the country? At present and in the immediate future?

[Leshchinskiy] You must understand that this is a very complex question, as any question concerning Afghanistan is. And it is also complex because the situation of the PDPA is very complex, at present, in the present military-political situation. First of all it finds itself, and we admit this honestly as the PDPA leadership also has admitted, it finds itself estranged from the people. It has no support among the people. And the party, as before, is being torn by contradictions between factions and wings. You know that at present several provinces are controlled by the armed Afghan opposition. This has not always been done by armed means. Sometimes the territory seized was deliberately left by Afghan Armed Forces, but there have also been cases of direct betrayal by leaders of the PDPA and military leaders. And the loudvoiced statements which preceeded the first stage of the withdrawal that everything in the provinces is normal and that they would be able to resist any pressure have not been correct in many respects. Unfortunately, they have turned out to be unsubstantiated. This also influences the PDPA authority and its situation today. And the situation is such: It is possible to say today that the PDPA is not, on the whole, the ruling party and the PDPA itself does not even pretend to be at present. And this has also been said often quite loudly it does not claim to have a monopoly on power. But any political talks, any model for the political future of Afghanistan, in my opinion, is not possible without the participation, even if only as an equal with others, the participation of the PDPA in the government and the Political Life. All the same, it is a real political force.

[Ovchinnikov] Many thanks, Mikhail Borisovich! I wish you success in your complex mission!

[Leshchinskiy] Thank you and goodbye!

Afghan Military Developments Summarized

PM1611110588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 88 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Rebels Flushed Out"]

[Text] Kabul, 14 Nov—BAKHTAR reports that the transport highway linking Jalalabad, the administrative center of Nangarhar Province, with the border city of Towr Kham has been cleared of rebels.

A government forces' operation to unblock the highway was launched Sunday at 0600. Combat operations developed swiftly and spread to areas along the road. Afghan Army subunits flushed out extremists and Pakistani mercenaries from these areas. By 1545 the road was clear. The enemy sustained considerable losses: 96 rebels were killed and 71 wounded, and 3 trucks of military equipment, 2 arms dumps, and 2 rocket launchers were destroyed.

Over the past 24 hours the diehards lost a further 185 men killed in clashes with regular units in Qandahar, Helmand, Vardak, and Paktia Province.

Armed gangs of extremists continue to terrorize the civilian population. Over the past 2 weeks they have bombarded residential quarters of the city of Tarin Kowt in Oruzgan Province with some 65,000 shells, mortar shells, and ground-t ground missiles. As a result of the massive shelling of the city 100 houses, 10 mosques, 3 schools, a hospital, and government buildings have been destroyed. Twenty people, including women and children, have been killed and 40 people wounded. The inhabitants of Tarin Kowt decided to defend their city against the extremist gangs. Together with armed forces subunits, they took part in an operation to eliminate rebel gangs, killing some 200 thugs.

The women of the Republic of Afghanistan greeted with enthusiasm the peace initiatives put forward by President Najibullah, Sh. Razmenda, deputy chairman of the Afghan Council of Women, said in a BAKHTAR interview. These proposals are directly linked with the normalization of the situation in Afghanistan and the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

The Republic of Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry has sent its 119th note to the UN observer mission in Kabul. The document contains a request from the Afghan Government that an investigation be carried out of the cases of violation of the Geneva agreements and specifically the recent shelling of the Afghan capital, which claimed human lives.

New Delhi Prepares for Gorbachev Visit

LD1711045188 Moscow TASS in English 1833 GMT 16 NOv 88

[Text] New Delhi November 16 TASs—Special TASS correspondents report:

A record of sorts was set today in the press centre that was opened at the central Delhi Hotel Ashoka. For over an hour and a half Indian and foreign journalists who gathered there put questions to a group of experts of the Soviet delegation ahead of an official friendly visit to India by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Presidium.

They were interested in details of the coming talks of the Soviet leader with India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and put questions about prospects for the further development of Soviet-Indian relations that were given a vigorous impetus following Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India two years ago. Nikoaly Shishlin, responsible official of the CPSU Central Committee, Academician Yevgeniy Primakov, Yuriy Osipyan and others took part in the news conference.

The presentation of the book "Mikhail Gorbachev's New Thinking Asia-Pacific—A Critical Assessment" was held in the presidential palace Tashtrapati Bhawan today. India's President Ramasvami Venkataraman said that what takes place now was unthinkable five years ago. Mikhail Gorbachev made a veritable revolution in political thinking: political consultations replaced confrontation.

An important document was signed at India's Ministry of External Trade on the same day. It is a protocol which envisages a steep increase of the volume of trade between the USSR and India. It will go up by 35 percent next year. A dynamic development of commercial and economic relations between the two countries makes one confident that the aim set during Mikhail Gorgachev's visit to India in November 1986 will be achieved. The volume of trade will increase 150 percent to reach 100 billion rupees by 1992.

The Indian side is of the opinion that the closure of the festival of the USSR in India will be a spectacular event during the visit of the Soviet leader to Delhi. The fete of Soviet culture that has been going on in Indian cities for a year now has been an effective form of people's diplomacy, a TASS correspondent was told by Vira Raghawan, secretary coordinator of India's Ministry of Education and Culture. Many ideas of cultural contacts conceived during the festival should be implemented on a permanent basis.

USSR Minister of Culture Vasiliy Zakharov shares this opinion. "The closure of the festival of the USSR in India is not the finale, but a step in the advance toward widening the contacts between our two great peoples," he said in an interview to TASS.

More colours are added these days to the picture of Delhi. There are garlands of fresh flowers in the streets, state flags of the USSR and India were hoisted in central squares. The distinguished Soviet guest is awaited in the Indian capital.

East Europe

Reportage on Yakovlev Visit to CSSR

Interviewed by RUDE PRAVO

LD1511234988 Prague CTK in English 2241 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Prague Nov 15 (CTK)—The program of ideological cooperation between the Czechoslovak and Soviet communist parties, which was signed here, is a possibility to start a qualitatively new stage of relations in this sphere, especially in culture or the exchange of information, Politburo Member and Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Aleksandr Yakovlev told the daily RUDE PRAVO, the Czechoslovak television, the Czechoslovak radio and CTK here today.

The relations between the two countries' communist parties must be based on broad and deep relations among the people who must better understand all aspects of history and policy and the hopes for the future, he underlined.

Aleksandr Yakovlev was chairman of the commission for the preparation of a resolution on public information, adopted by the 19th All-Union Conference of the Soviet Communist Party.

Asked about the implementation of the principles of public information he said that public information is not the result of the resolution but that the resolution adopted by the conference was the result of public information deepening in the Soviet Union.

Public information is not an easy thing, it is such a weapon that for various reasons and in various spheres it is not always applauded. The working people welcome it as they want to know more about what has been going on in the country, those responsible for certain spheres and especially if they work badly do not like it, he said.

He further stated that in the Soviet Union, too, public information is sometimes understood as a function of the mass information media. However, this is a very limited explanation as the main objective is that all party and social organizations and state bodies work in keeping with the principle of public information, that all are informed about their work, that there is nothing that would be somehow kept from the knowledge of the people, he pointed out.

Public information has become one of the very active forms of struggle against bureaucracy and its methods, against corruption and misuse of power, i.e. against negative phenomena described as petty-bourgeois mentality, Yakovlev continued.

The mass communication media are criticized and the criticism concentrates mainly on the question of truthfulness, he said, stressing his conviciton that every honest journalist supports this attitude. The only thing which must be prevented are factual inaccuracies. Interpretation of this or that question is a business of the journalist, he pointed out.

The development of democracy presupposes that space will be given also to different opinions. "We must graduate from this school of democracy, we have to learn the art of discussions by discussing, by clashes of opinions", he said, adding that from the political point of view restructuring is also a struggle for human dignity. It is a duty of the press to observe the principle of respect for man, he stressed.

Dealing with the recent presidential elections in the USA and further prospects of Soviet-U.S. relations he said that the Soviet Union is prepared to confer with any American Government, be it Democratic or Republican, adding that a common language has been recently found with the Republican government and that the significant treaty on the liquidation of medium- and shorter-range missiles was signed.

He expressed the conviction that this process will continue and stressed that the Soviet Union will confer as constructively as possible about a 50 per cent reduction of strategic weapons, believing that the Americans will do the same.

A summit meeting would be especially useful today, would make the whole process more dynamic and help achieve practical results as soon as possible in the sphere of a 50 per cent reduction of strategic weapons, in the sphere of chemical weapons, reduction of conventional armament in Europe and regional problems, Yakovlev stressed.

Aleksandr Yakovlev further answered questions concerning the Czechoslovak initiative put forward by Czechoslovak Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes last February and other initiatives such as the joint Czechoslovak-GDR initiative to establish a zone free of chemical and nuclear weapons in Central Europe.

He said inter alia that "If we succeed in establishing zones free of nuclear or chemical weapons, zones of cooperation and maybe also economic zones all this would lead to destroying the stereotype of the military threat."

"I believe that all proposals put forward by the socialist countries are aimed at building a common European home in which weapons must be replaced by confidence between people," he added.

He further answered questions concerning reserves in exchange of information on political and economic processes in the socialist countries. In this connection he said: "I think that our journalists should publish more actively information about the situation in other countries. It seems to me that there exist many reserves. We write about life only formally, like in a protocol or speaking more exactly superficially. But we can nowhere read about what is interesting everywhere, in your country in our country or in the countries of our neighbours."

Dealing with a planned round-table meeting of the European left-wing forces he stressed that the Soviet Union welcomes this opportunity, adding that the period of discussions, negotiations and explanation of standpoints should not be rushed.

It should not be to stressed too much if a party is a left-wing party or not because the purpose of round-table talks is not to create a kind of an association. The main aim is to make progress in the realization of the idea of a common European home, European security, in the struggle against armament, in the effort to create a

world—and especially Europe—without violence and nuclear weapons. On this basis we shall find a number of people, parties, groups and groupings which will agree with these principles, he underlined.

Speaks at CPCZ Party School

PM1611125588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Nov 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Draws to Close"]

[Text] Prague, 15 Nov—The working visit to the CSSR at the invitation of the CPCZ Central Committee by A.N. Yakovlev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is drawing to a close.

Today at the CPCZ Central Committee Higher Political School he spoke to senior workers from the CPCZ Central Committee and the CSSR Foreign Ministry, faculty chiefs and lecturers at the CPCZ Central Committee Higher Political School, workers from the CPCZ Central Committee Marxism-Leninism Institute, chief editors of party publications, and leaders of the mass media. A.N. Yakovlev answered numerous questions from those present. V. Bilak and J. Fojtik, members of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and secretaries of the CPCZ Central Committee, took part in the meeting with the aktiv.

A.N. Yakovlev warmly welcomed members of the Central Committee Presidium and activists from the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Union, which has around 2.5 million members. Z. Horeni, chairman of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Union, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Secretariat, and chief editor of the newspaper RUDE PRAVO, told the Soviet guest about the union's work. The friendly and frank talk touched on questions of the further galvanization of cooperation between the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Union and the Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Society and participation by the two organizations in developing progressive new forms of Czechoslovak-Soviet economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation, and particularly direct links. A.N. Yakovlev wished Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Union members further successes in their work and in holding the Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship month in the country.

A.N. Yakovlev gave an interview to representatives of RUDE PRAVO, CTK, and Czechoslovak Television, in which he shared his thoughts on the results of his talks with CPCZ leaders and his meetings with Czechoslovak working people. The main result is the resolve of our fraternal parties and peoples to continue developing mutual comprehensive cooperation and strengthening the Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship and alliance, he stressed.

Meets With Friendship Association

LD1611225288 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Comrade Aleksandr Yakovlev met in Prague today members of the presidium and the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association.

In a friendly discussion he informed those present about the most topical issues of the restructuring of Soviet society and answered some questions about friendship, relations, the democratization of life, and mutual information exchange. He explained the tasks of restructuring.

Discusses Relations, Ends Visit

LD1611101988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Nov 88

[From the "Vremya newscast]

[Text] Comrade Yakovlev's working visit to Czechoslovakia is ending. Our special correspondent reports from Prague:

[V. Korzin, identified by caption] The aktiv of the ideological officials of the Czechoslovak capital gathered in the High Political School in Prague today for a meeting with Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev. In his speech, Comrade Yakovlev discussed the revolutionary processes under way in our country and answered numerous questions frankly and in detail. He said, in particular:

[Begin Yakovlev recording] Over the last 4 decades, Soviet-Czechoslovak relations have become an important, living part of the socialist community and an affirmation of new relations on the continent as a whole. Their tone is set by the closest interaction between the Central Committees of the CPSU and the CPCZ, characterized by frankness, mutual understanding, and party-minded comradeship.

The January meeting in Moscow betwen Comrade Gorbachev and Comrade Jakes brought to life a program for this interaction which is rich in new ideas. Czechoslovakia's constructive role in the elimination of medium- and shorter- range nuclear weapons in Europe is valued in the Soviet Union. We support Comrade Jakes' initiative to establish a zone of trust, cooperation, and good-neighborliness along the line of contact between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. We have strong feelings of comradeship for one another and count firmly on mutual assistance and mutual support. [applause] [end recording]

[Korzin] A group of leading Czechoslovak journalists requested an interview with Comrade Yakovlev to obtain first hand, as they say, information and answers to questions of concern to their viewers and readers.

One more meeting was held at the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Union. This, the country's largest mass organization, brings together approximately 2,500,000 people. Answering questions, Comrade Yakfovlev particularly expressed the view that, at the present stage, the Friendship Union and Society must step up their activity and that they must stand up as a political force which not only promotes mutual understanding between the peoples, but also encourages the positive processes that have taken shape in our countries.

Departs Prague

LD1611124188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0830 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Prague, 16 November (TASS)—A.N.Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who was in the CSSR on a working visit at the invitation of the CPCZ Central Committee, today left Prague for Moscow.

At the airport he was seen off by V.Bilak and J.Fojtik, members of the Presidium and secretaries of the CPCZ Central committee; CSSR foreign minister J.Johanes; and senior staff of the CPCZ Central Committee.

Among the sending-off party was V.P.Lomakin, USSR ambassador to the CSSR.

Arrives Moscow, Met by Shevardnadze

LD1611124288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Today Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived in Moscow from Prague. He had been in the CSSR on a working visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. At the airport he was met by Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Foreign Minister, Falin, head of the International Department of the Party Central Committee; and other officials.

Start of CPCZ 'Program' Elaboration Noted

PM1511113388 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Nov 88 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "CPCZ Program Being Prepared"]

[Text] Prague, 11 Nov—The CPCZ has approached a historically important juncture. In accordance with a decision of the recent CPCZ Central Committee plenum, a commission headed by M. Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, has begun preparations to draw up the party program. There has never before been such a document in the CPCZ's political activity. Each congress has merely drawn up documents defining the specific tasks stemming from the 5-year economic and social development plans.

Today the CPCZ and Czechoslovak society have embarked on a process of creative development of scientific socialism, in which the concrete practice of socialist building and its achievements in the CSSR are being enriched with the experience of the fraternal parties—the CPSU above all. So the decision has been made to draw up a long-term program defining the main development trends in society and the party.

The commission has begun collecting proposals and main theses on the program and elaborating the starting positions. It is too early to talk about its concept or contents, but it is already clear that the restructuring of the economic mechanism and the deepening of society's democratization will be important points in the document, since the party regards the tasks connected with this as revolutionary.

CSSR Government Program Statement Cited

PM1411124588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Nov 88 Second Edition p 5

[Stanislav Vtorushin dispatch under the "Correspondent Comments" rubric: "Accelerating Restructuring"]

[Text] Prague, 9 Nov—The new Czechoslovak Government has made a program statement assessing the country's domestic situation and proposing steps to accelerate the socioeconomic development of society. Today a session of the CSSR Federal Assembly unanimously approved the government's proposals.

This program may be described as the course of accelerating restructuring. The Czechoslovak economy is adapting too slowly to foreign and domestic market conditions. This is indicated by the poor competitiveness of many goods, serious problems in enterprises' material and technical supply, and the high material-intensiveness and energy-intensiveness of the output produced. The reason for this situation is the current administrative-directive system of management, enterprises' small interest in introducing scientific and technical achievements, and the low degree of effectiveness of scientific research. Newly constructed enteprises are slow to reach rated capacity. For this reason alone the CSSR economy has an annual shortfall of output worth Kcs12 million.

That is why the CSSR Government intends to direct its main efforts toward implementing profound economic and political reforms. The country has no other path than the path of restructuring, the government statement says. The transfer of the entire economy to new conditions of planning and economic incentives is the most important step in this direction. The new economic mechanism will begin to operate statewide as of 1 January 1990—1 year earlier than originally planned. It will enable broader use of the powerful potential of socialist ownership and various forms of personal and

collective interest in the end results of labor and economically accountable principles to be applied more consistently and creatively. At the same time structural restructuring of the economy is planned.

The new policy will also be implemented in the concentration of production. The government opposes obsession with size and unwarranted enlargement of enterprises, since this leads to monopolization with all the adverse consequences that that entails.

The task has been set of ridding the economy of unprofitable enterprises. Temporary aid will be accorded to those enterprises that put forward a realistic program for boosting the effectiveness of production. The rest will be incorporated into other enterprises and associations or will be eliminated.

Serious steps will be taken to improve the domestic market's supply of high-quality goods in popular demand. The government deems an increase in prices inadmissible.

It has been decided to devote a great deal of attention to social questions and to environmental protection.

Experience has shown that economic reform can only be implemented if it is accompanied by political reform. In this connection it is planned to grant greater rights to grassroots levels of management—national committees at all levels and labor collectives of enterprises and organizations.

The CSSR Government program statement has set realistic goals. Their attainment will enable the country to better use the potential of socialism and raise the people's standard of living higher.

Solovyev Meets With Prague's Stepan 1 Nov

PM1411134188 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Nov 88 p 1

[LENTASS report: "Friendly Meeting in the Smolnyy"]

[Text] A meeting in the Smolnyy yesterday between Yu.F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad party obkom, and the Prague city delegation in Leningrad on a friendship visit passed in a friendly atmosphere.

Welcoming the guests, Yu.F. Solovyev emphasized that the course on which the CPSU has embarked and the CPCZ's course toward profound transformations in economic and sociopolitical life are exerting a positive influence on the whole range of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations. The common nature of our aims and tasks opens up new potential also in the deepening of our bilateral cooperation.

Yu.V. Solovyev gave an account of the work of the Leningrad party organization in conditions of restructuring. Currently problems are being tackled in accelerating the socioeconomic development of the city and oblast and implementing the tasks of economic and political reform. In all these matters the party organization bears a great responsibility. At the current stage this responsibility is particularly great. This is because the report-and-election campaign is under way, and it is in the course of this campaign that the political directives of the 19th all-union party conference on the further democratization of intraparty and social life must be translated into reality.

Speaking about the expansion of friendly ties, Yu.F. Solovyev noted that they must be geared to economic cooperation. It is necessary to create a mechanism for integrated collaboration which will make it possible to pool efforts in the development of key technologies and scientifically intensive production facilities and also in the solution of many other problems characteristic of big cities like Leningrad and Prague.

Miroslav Stepan, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and first secretary of the Prague CPCZ City Committee, who is heading the delegation, expressed gratitude for the opportunity granted to his delegation to acquaint itself with the city, the life of Leningraders, and the work of the Leningrad party organization. We are prepared, he said, to do everything in our power to ensure the development of further contacts between Prague and Leningrad. This work will be organized in the light of the experience accumulated by enterprises, organizations, and scientific establishments which have maintained partnership ties and close cooperation for a long time.

M. Stepan gave an account of the republic working people's progress in implementing the decisions of the 17th CPCZ Congress and subsequent CPCZ Central Committee plenums intended to raise the country to a qualitatively new level of socioeconomic development and democratize the life of society. He said that people in Czechoslovakia are following the revolutionary transformations under way in the Soviet Union with profound interest, because they serve as a source of experience for Czechoslovak working people too.

A.N. Gerasimov, first secretary of Leningrad party gorkom; D.N. Filippov, secretary of Leningrad CPSU Obkom; and V.Ya. Khodyrev, chairman of Leningrad Gorispolkom, were present at the conversation.

Also in attendance was Miroslav Pleskac, Czechoslovak consul general in Leningrad.

The guests visited the V.I. Lenin memorial museum in the Smolnyy. Flowers were laid at the monument to the leader in the historic building.

At Piskarevskoye memorial cemetery the guests paid tribute to the memory of Leningraders and servicemen who died during the Great Patriotic War years and laid a wreath on the fraternal graves by the memorial. Flowers were also laid at the Monument to the Heroic Defenders of Leningrad on Victory Square.

The envoys from the Czechoslovak capital visited the cruiser "Avrora" and the "Elektrosila" association.

The CPSU Obkom and Leningrad Gorispolkom gave a reception for them.

Further Reportage on Yazov Visit to SFRY

Holds Talks With Dizdarevic, Mikulic

LD1511193988 Moscow TASS in English 1836 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Belgrade November 15 TASS—Army General Dmitriy Yazov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR defence minister, currently on an official friendly visit to Yugoslavia, was received today by Raif Dizdarevic, president of Yugoslavia's collective Presidency.

The sides discussed certain questions of common concern. It was stressed that the key political event in relations between the two countries and parties was Mikhail Gorbachev's official friendly visit to Yugoslavia last March. Its results laid the beginning for a qualitatively new stage in deepening Soviet-Yugoslav cooperation. The sides noted that it was of a mutually beneficial character, meeting the interests of the two nations and serving the cause of peace and international security.

Dizdarevic and Yazov exchanged views on major international issues.

A meeting took place the same day between the Soviet guest and Branko Mikulic, president of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. The talk centred on questions of furthering cooperation between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, in the military domain included. The sides exchanged views on the domestic situation in both countries, specifically on the process of perestroyka and democratisation in the USSR, on the efforts to streamline the Yugoslav political and economic systems, as well as on some key international problems.

The Soviet defence minister visited the Air-Force technological institute. In the afternoon he proceeded to Split, where he called at the Marshal Tito Naval Training Centre, met with its officers and cadets, went sightseeing.

Further on Talks With Dizdarevic

LD1611103988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Nov 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; announcer-read report over video]

[Text] Comrade Yazov's official friendly visit to Yugoslavia is continuing. Our correspondent reports from Belgrade.

[V. Nogin—identified by caption] Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov visited a mechanized brigade of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA]. On the ranges, the members of the Soviet military delegation observed the progress of the combat training of Yugoslav servicemen, examined the dispositions of the units, and visited training classes.

Continuing his acquaintance with the Yugoslav Armed Forces, the USSR defense minister looked around the YPA'S permanent exhibition of weaponry and fighting equipment and visited the Djuro Djakovic production association and an aviation engineering institute.

Comrade Yazov was received today by Raif Dizdarevic, president of the SFRY Presidency. Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia was discussed during the conversation. It was stressed here that the visit to Yugoslavia by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in March this year was a highly important event in relations between our countries and between the CPSU and the LCY. That visit marked the beginning of a qualitatively new stage in the deepening of Soviet-Yugoslv cooperation. Raif Dizdarevic and Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov also discussed topical problems of the contemporary international situation. [video shows delegations in talks: Yazov, a civilian and three other military men on the Soviet side; Dizdarevic and Kadijevic identifiable on the Yugoslav side]

The further development of all-round Soviet-Yugoslav ties, including in the military area, were discussed at a meeting between Comrade Yazov and Branko Mikulic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive council, which also took place today. Comrades Yazov and Mikulic also exchanged views on problems of the domestic situation in both countries.

Yazov Denies MIG-27's Sent to Afghanistan

LD1611133088 Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Army General Dmitriy Yazov, during his visit in Yugoslavia, denied reports in the Western press that the Soviet Union has sent 30 MIG27 fighter planes to Afghanistan. In an interview with the Yugoslav weekly DANAS, the Soviet minister pointed out that sending modern missiles to the Afghan Army was solely aimed at preventing unbridled terror on

the part of the armed opposition. At the same time, Gen Yazov stressed that the Soviet Union intended to stick to its Geneva obligations which is not the case with Pakistan and the United States.

Further on Yazov Remarks

LD1611162588 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1342 GMT16 Nov 88

[Text] Zagreb, Nov 16 (TANJUG)—The principle of defence sufficiency, on which the Soviet military doctrine is based, implies total liquidation of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, Soviet Defence Minister General of the Army Dmitriy Yazov (65) said in an exclusive interview to the Yugoslav weekly DANAS published in its latest issue.

General Yazov gave the interview to journalist Miroslav Lazanski prior to his official visit to Yugoslavia, where he arrived on Sunday.

During the visit, Yazov met with Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic, State Presidency President Raif Dizdarevic and Prime Minister Branko Mikulic.

In practice, the Soviet military doctrine implies a defensive structuring of the armed forces, limiting the participation of the offensive system of armament, regrouping the armed forces and cutting down military production, the Soviet defence minister told DANAS.

As for strategic offensive arms, the principle of defence sufficiency implies establishing a balance between the Soviet Union and the United States, Yazov said, adding that this can be only realized on a reciprocal basis. However, our defence sufficiency is limited by actions by the United States and the NATO, who have repeatedly rejected some relevant Soviet proposals, he said.

"We will take all the necessary measures to decrease concern in the west about the existing groupings of our armed forces," General Yazov stated.

He stressed that although there is a global balance between the Soviet Union and the United States regarding nuclear weapons, their level is still extremely high. Therefore, the continuation of the nuclear arms race can further increase a danger of war, he said.

General Yazov denied claims of some Western military experts that the Intermediate-range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty has tipped the strategic balance in favour of the Soviet Union. These claims were launched by those Western forces who urge "further nuclear armament in Europe," he said.

Commenting on the latest Soviet moves regarding Afghanistan, General Yazov denied the claim of THE NEW YORK TIMES that more MIG-27s are being shipped to Afghanistan.

"The missiles we now have in Afghanistan are intended solely for defending the Soviet soldiers from attacks by big opposition forces groups," said Yazov.

According to Yazov, the Soviet Union continues to meet its obligations regarding the withdrawal from Afghanistan, and respects the stipulations of the Geneva treaty, but "the other side has been constantly breaking the agreement by increasing aid to opposition formations." In such a situation, all our moves have actually been forced upon us, the Soviet defence minister concluded in his interview to the Yugoslav weekly.

Returns to Moscow; Met by Talyzin

LD1611215988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Nov 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The final conversation between Comrade Yazov, who is in Yugoslavia on an official friendly visit, and Colonel-General Kadijevic, Yugoslavia's federal secretary for national defense, took place today in the Yugoslav town of Dubrovnik. Under discussion were matters of mutual interest regarding the development of links between the two countries in the military sphere.

Today Comrade Yazov returned to Moscow. He was met at the airport by Comrade Talyzin and other officials. [video shows Yazov coming down the aircraft steps, shaking hands with Talyzin]

West Europe

Adamishin Confers With Swiss Official

LD0911204988 Moscow TASS in English 1849 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Berne November 9 TASS—Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, now in Switzerland, today met A. Brunner, state secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

The talk focused on the situation in the south of Africa in view of the quadripartite negotiations on settlement in south-western Africa being reconvened in Geneva, and on other regional conflicts. The sides also exchanged views on the topic of the Vienna follow-up meeting. It was confirmed that the approaches of the USSR and Switzerland to questions under discussion were close.

Foreign Trade Official on Austria Ties

AU1411160788 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 14 Nov 88 p 8

[Helmut Hetzel report: "Soviets Are Looking for Cooperation in Agriculture"]

[Excerpts] The Hague—Viktor Nikolayevich Beletskiy is one of the most renowned Soviet foreign trade experts. He is president of SOF-Intercontact/Agroservice, which

wants to expand trade especially with the Netherlands, Austria, and the FRG by means of joint ventures with Western companies. The historian and former ambassador recently stayed in Eindhoven to attend a seminar on East-West relations.

In a talk with DIE PRESSE, Beletskiy stated that the Soviet side is very interested in cooperation with the West, in particular with regard to agriculture and the construction industry. "Our major strategy consists in founding more joint ventures in the future. This is also profitable for our Western partners."

It is planned to follow new paths particularly in agriculture. On the one hand, in the future small family enterprises should get a chance, and on the other it is planned to establish several hundred joint ventures in the foodstuffs industry. "In addition, we would like to send our people to the FRG, Austria, or the Netherlands so that they get acquainted with Western demands on quality." [passage omitted]

Asked about specific opportunities for cooperation with Austria, the answer shot out: "Wood processing. In the Caucasus we have the best beech trees. They are ideal for parquet floors. Furthermore, we are willing to establish joint ventures in the packaging and meat sectors. Our sausages simply have to be improved. There are also possibilities in tourism." [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry 'Expert' on Cyprus Problem

LD1511163488 Moscow TASS in English 1546 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 15 TASS—Exactly five years ago the leadership of the Turkish community on Cyprus proclaimed the establishment of an "independent state", the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This created additional obstacles to a resolution of the protracted conflict between the Greek and Turkish communities of the island.

However, the meeting between President Yeoryios Vasiliou of the Republic of Cyprus and Rauf Denktas, the leader of Cypriot Turks, in August this year gave a new impulse to the dialogue between the two communities.

Much now depends on the goodwill of the sides and their readiness to conduct a constructive dialogue and to seek the elaboration of mutually-acceptable, compromise solutions. Noteworthy in this connection is the initiative proposed by the president of the Republic of Cyprus to demilitarise the island. The initiative envisages disbandment of the armed forces of the two sides, the dismantling of defence installations, and a withdrawal of foreign troops from Cyprus.

Strict observance of the fair balance of the interests of the Cypriot Greeks and Cypriot Turks, and renunciation of foreign interference in intra-Cyprus affairs are regarded in the Soviet Union as the main conditions for a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

In 1986 the Soviet Union came forward with a number of proposals on the principles of a settlement of the Cyprus problem, and on ways to achieve it. It was suggested as one of possible ways to resolve the problem that a widely representative international conference be held within the U.N. framework to work out specific measures to secure a comprehensive and viable solution to undo the conflict on Cyprus.

"The Soviet Union has always been coming out in support of a sovereign, independent, territorially integral and non-aligned Cyprus", Viktor Boyko, expert of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

"The Soviet side takes genuine interest in a fair settlement of the Cyprus problem and in the strengthening of security and stability not only on the island itself but also in the eastern Mediterranean as a whole", the Foreign Ministry's expert said.

"The Soviet Union hopes," the expert emphasized, "that the tendency, which became visible on both sides of late, towards broadening the intra-Cyprus dialogue should be embodied in practical measures to eliminate inter-community estrangement."

Political & Social

Estonian Supreme Soviet Calls for Independence

Sees Own Laws 'Above' Federal Laws

LD1611175988 Helsinki International Service in Finnish 1600 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Estonian Supreme Soviet is at present meeting in Tallinn to discuss the draft for a new Soviet Constitution. Over 900,000 Estonians have already expressed their view about the Constitution reform by signing an appeal opposing the reform. At the beginning of the Supreme Soviet session Indrek Toome was elected new premier of Estonia, and several other ministers and high officials were replaced. Hannu Vilpponen reports from Tallinn on the meeting, which is still continuing:

[Vilpponen] The Supreme Soviet voted on the agenda at the very beginning. Those in favor of the constitution reform would have liked the meeting to discuss only earlier published Soviet constitutional proposals. According to them, it would not have been necessary to discuss at this meeting any proposals for changes in Estonia's own constitution. In this ballot the number of those in favor of Moscow's proposals was measured—they lost with the votes 238 - 16, which means that the meeting is firmly in the hands of party leader Vayno Vyalyas. The former party leader, Karl Vayno, has now officially been dismissed from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the new party leader, Vayno Vyalyas has been chosen to replace him.

The extensive personnel changes in the political leadership of Estonia was decided during the initial 1 and ½ hours of the meeting. All elections were, however, unanimous.

The Estonian statement opposing the Constitution reform was presented to the meeting by Arnold Ryoytel, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium. He said that the reform proposal was a step backwards, because it would in practice remove all decisionmaking power from the republic itself and would be contrary to the decisions of the 19th party conference. At that conference it was decided that power should, on the contrary, be transferred away from Moscow to the republics and the regions. According to the proposed changes, for instance, all laws regulating the economy would be passed by the USSR Supreme Soviet, in which case taxes and prices, for example, would be the same throughout the Soviet Union. In the view of Estonians, this removes the basis from economic independence, which Moscow wants, at least in words, to give to the republics.

The Estonians do not like the fact that only one third of the members of the new body—the Congress of People's Deputies—would be elected on national grounds. Now every republic, regardless of its size, has the same number of delegates in the Soviet of Nationalities. The Estonians are also in favor of the one man, one vote principle. According to Moscow's proposal, one third of the members of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies would be elected at meetings of various social organizations, in which case on person can in practice have several votes. If someone, for instance, is a Communist and a member of the Writers' Union, he can in practice use three votes. Some Estonian legal experts would like the Soviet of Nationalities to be turned into something corresponding to the U.S. Senate or an upper chamber, which would at least have a postponing veto. In this way Estonians believe it would be possible to protect national interests.

The most critical point in the proposed reforms is, however, the regulaton which states that Soviet law applies if there is a conflict between it and the republic's law. The Estonians also demand that the repubic's own Supreme Soviet must first approve the law of the federal republic before it becomes valid in the republic.

The Supreme Soviet session is at present discussing an Estonian declaration of independence, which has already been approved by its committees. According to the declaration, Estonia's own laws are above Soviet laws until an agreement on an alliance of states is achieved. The Estonians would like to make the present federal state into an alliance of independent states, which would themselves decide what would be dealt with by the central administration. At present the central administration—or Moscow—decides what affairs are left for the republics themselves to deal with.

These are strong demands, for which the Estonians are likely to gain the support of the other Baltic countries. Tomorrow the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet will discuss similar matters, and a little later comes the turn of Latvia. Despite the possible opposition of the Baltic countries, the reforms are likely to be approved at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet at the end of this month. The Estonians say, however, that if their remarks are not taken into consideration at all, it will mean real difficulties for Moscow in ruling the Soviet Union.

'Text' of 'Draft Declarations'

LD1611190188 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1600 GMT 16 Nov 88

["Texts" of the "draft declarations" circulated to the Estonian Supreme Soviet deputies, read by announcer during a break in proceedings in Tallinn—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Declaration of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet in respect of the sovereignty of the Estonian SSR:

The Estonian people have tilled their land here, on the shores of the Baltic Sea, and developed their culture for over 5,000 years. In 1940, the relatively homogenous people—approximately 94 percent Estonian within today's boundaries, with cultural autonomy for many minority nations—and the sovereign Estonian state were

incorporated into the Soviet Union. The guarantees of sovereignty were at that time thought to be preserved, as was the flowering of the nation. The internal policy under Stalinism and in the stagnation period ignored those aims fixed by the constitution. As a result, in Estonia an unfavorable situation has developed demographically for Estonians, who are the indigenous population, the natural environment [passage indistinct] in the economy the continuing manifestations of stagnation have a negative effect on the living standard of the entire population of the whole republic.

To overcome the crisis, the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet sees but one specific path: the further development of Estonia must take place under conditions of sovereignty. According to this, the future status of the republic within the Soviet Union could be determined by the union contract.

The Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet does not agree with those amendments and additions to the USSR Constitution proposed by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet that exclude the constitutional right of the Estonian SSR to self-determination. Relying on international pacts regarding economic, social, cultural, and (?civil) [words indistinct] rights of 16 September 1966, which have also been ratified by the Soviet Union, and relying also on other norms of international rights, the top organ of the Estonian SSR people's power—the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet—declares the priority of its laws over Estonian SSR territory before USSR laws, until the union contract is concluded. The Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet appeals to all those people who have linked their fate with the Estonian land to consolidate for the purpose of building a democratic and socialist Estonian society. The juridical and factual implementation of sovereignty means at the same time that the Estonian people will not in the future agree to any law that discriminates against the representatives of any other nationality who live in Estonia.

That was the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet draft declaration. Paired with it, in a way, is another draft—the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet resolution in respect of the union contract:

The Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet, relying on the declaration concerning the Estonian SSR'S sovereignty, proposes to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to work out a union contract, and authorizes the Presidium of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet to represent the interests of the republic in working out of the text of the contract. [passage omitted]

Moscow Expected To Accept Demands

LD1611184388 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1700 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The Estonian Supreme Soviet is meeting in Tallinn and the discussion there is heated, reports our correspondent. The session is discussing a draft resolution that Estonia become an economically and politically independent republic in the Soviet Union. Here is Anders Eriksson from Tallinn:

[Eriksson] When the Estonian Supreme Soviet started its session this morning, hundreds of people stood outside the parliament building here in Tallinn with placards and the bourgeois Estonian republic's blue-black-white flag in their hands. Demonstrations in connection with important meetings of the deciding bodies have within a few months become a tradition in the Baltic republics.

The session is still continuing and will continue until late this evening. [passage omitted]

At a press conference this afternoon, one of the leading figures of the People's Front, Marju Lauristin, was asked what would happen if Moscow should reject the Estonian demands. Lauristin said that yesterday she met with the leaders of the People's Fronts in the other Baltic republics. I do not think that Moscow will say no. They know that we have support for our demands in many of the other union republics, said Lauristin. The People's Front head of information added that if we lose this battle it does not mean that we will lose the whole war.

Ryuytel Favors Economic Autonomy

LD1611193988 Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] A special session of the Estonian parliament is taking place in the capital Tallinn. The session is to review economic and political measures to speed up resolving problems facing the republic. Speaking at the session the president of the republic, Arnold Ryuytel, spoke out for econmic self-autonomy as a way to resolve the difficulties facing Estonia's economy. The session elected a new prime minister: Indrek Tomme will replace former prime minister Bruno Saul. The members of parliament will also discuss amendments to Estonia's constitution.

Ryuytel: More 'Local' Independence

LD1611215788 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] A special session of the Estonian parliament has been held in the republic's capital, Tallinn. Addressing it Estonian president, Arnold Ryuytel, said a public discussion of the draft constitutional changes and amendments had shown the general support for the restructuring even though there had been differences about the tactics. He said the reform of the political system was a key task crucial for radical democratization and decentralization.

The Estonian president pointed out that giving more independence to local bodies of government in line with the decisions adopted at the 27th party congress and the 19th national party conference was crucial for solving problems faced by the republic.

The session appointed Indrek Tomme the new prime minister. It also reviewed suggestions on constitutional amendments and on the draft law on elections. By a majority of votes members of the Estonian parliament gave priority to Estonia's laws over national ones.

Live Relay Reports Voting

LD1711112788 [Editorial Report] Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian at 1746 GMT on 16 November carries a live relay of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet session.

The announcer states that a committee has amended the draft declarations which were discussed earlier. The session chairman, Vyalyas, suggests a secret ballot which only two deputies favor. After voting, the announcer states that the resolution on the draft law on amendments and changes to the USSR Constitution has been unanimously adopted. The resolution itself is not read out.

The draft law on amendments to the Estonian SSR Constitution is then passed. Boris Tamm reads one of the amendments: "Laws and other normative acts of the Soviet Union go into effect in the Estonian SSR once they are registered according to the procedures established by the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium." The announcer states that the law was passed with 254 votes for and 7 against, with no abstentions.

Estonian SSR Foreign Minister Arnol'd Gren then reads out the amended text of the declaration of sovereignty. Gren says "the future development of Estonia must take place under conditions of sovereignty. Sovereignty with regard to the Estonian SSR means that the highest authority within its territory is the Estonian SSR, through its top organs of power and government and the courts. Sovereignty in the Estonian SSR is whole and indivisible. In accordance with this, the republic's future status within the Soviet Union should be determined by a union contract."

Gren later states that "amendments and changes to the USSR Constitution in the future will go into effect in the Estonian SSR after they are approved by the Estonian SSR Constitution." The announcer then says the session will continue and live coverage ends.

Resolutions Passed 16 Nov

LD1711101688 Moscow TASS in English 1009 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Tallinn November 17 TASS—The Supreme Soviet (parliament) of Soviet Estonia passed late on Wednesday a resolution on the results of the one-day session in connection with two draft laws - on the changes to the USSR constitution and elections of people's deputies - which are currently being discussed in the USSR.

The passing of the resolution was preceded by a broad-based discussion of the draft laws, during which more than 800,000 inhabitants of the republic expressed their views. Most of them believe that some of the paragraphs of these documents do not correspond to the principles of sovereignty of a union republic.

Estonia's Supreme Soviet proposed removing these paragraphs of the law in their current form from the agenda of the next session of the USSR Supreme Soviet and reword them with the participation of the representatives of all peoples.

Besides, a declaration of the sovereignty of the Estonian SSR, as well as a resolution proposing to conclude a union treaty which, according to Estonian deputies, should define the relations between all union republics making up the USSR were passed at the session.

USSR Supreme Soviet on Resolution

LD1711112388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] In the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium: At a session of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet on 16 November, an amendment was adopted to Article 74 of that republic's constitution, to the effect that the supreme bodies of power of the Estonian SSR may in certain cases suspend or determine the limits of the adoption of legislative and other acts of the USSR.

Considering this amendment and a number of other documents adopted by the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet to be at variance with the tenets of the current USSR Constitution, the USSR, Supreme Soviet Presidium has decided to examine this question at its next session, inviting representatives of the Estonian SSR to attend.

The Legislative Proposals Commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet have been instructed to present to the Supreme Soviet Presidium their considered findings on this question which affects the basic principles of the formation and unity of the Soviet Socialist Federation.

Ryuytel Radio Address 9 Nov

LD0911180688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Discussion of various topical problems in our life is currently under way in labor collectives. In particular, there is discussion of the draft law on the language of the Estonian SSR, ecological problems and, finally, the draft addenda and amendments to the USSR Constitution and the law on elections of people's deputies. It is this document which is giving rise to the greatest disputes. Some of the republic's inhabitants regard the new draft as evidence pointing toward democratization; others assert that it substantially restricts the rights of the union republics.

At the microphone is Arnold Ryutel, chairman of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

[Ryuytel] The public is probably aware that over the past few days or even the last week, a very large number of letters and statements have arrived at the presidium from various movements. Sessions of local soviets have also been held and the decisions from these sessions and from various collectives submitted, including collectives such as the Academy of Sciences and various institutions and establishments. Very serious questions on amendments to the Constitution have, of course, been raised in these letters and statements and on the law on elections.

We discussed these letters and found that the issues are so serious that they have to be discussed at a higher level of authority—that is, at a session of the Supreme Soviet. A session of the Central Committee Bureau has also been held, at which this matter was also discussed, and it was decided that it was necessary to set up a committee of well-known people and party and local soviet personalities, also including scientific and cultural personalities and representatives of various movements. This commission is to submit a decision, that is, in general discuss all the issues which have been raised and to present all these materials at an extraordinary session.

We discussed a possible schedule and time for convening this session and found that it would probably be appropriate to hold it on 16 November.

Other matters will be dealt with at the session. We hope that we will also be able to touch on the question of repressions at this session, and less important issues in the country which require discussion. Bruno Eduardovich Saul, chairman of the Estonian Council of Ministers, has submitted a statement concerning his transfer to other work. We in the presidium discussed this matter thoroughly and decided to submit this statement and his request to the extraordinary session, since it is evidently correct to satisfy his request. This matter is only within the competence of the Supreme Soviet—the presidium is not empowered to decide a matter of a personal nature.

[Announcer] Incidentally, immediately after the holiday Arnold Ryutel, chairman of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, other republican party and government leaders, and representatives of the Estonian People's Front have left for Moscow to convey, on behalf of the people of Estonia, their opinion on the draft amendments and addenda to the country's Constitution.

Unofficial Memo Outlines'40 Coup

LD1711132288 Tallinn HOMELAND in English 2 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

[By Arved Jurgenson]

[Excerpts] Democratization took another leap forwrad in Estonia last week with the Estonian National Independence Party, an officially unrecognized political grouping that was formed in August and unites around 200 members, being allowed to hold a press conference.

The leaders of the ENIP, which unequivocally seeks Estonia's secession from the Soviet Union, informed journalists about the Memorandum on the Situation in Estonia that they had dispatched to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN general secretary and governments of 26 nations.

"It was a desperate move," ENIP Spokesman Tunne Kelam admitted. "But a drowning man should use all his limbs to keep himself above water and, hopefully, make it to the shore."

Jeopardy

The ENIP memorandum lays out the historical reasons why the Estonian nation has reached a stage where, it says, its survival is "in immediate jeopardy." [passage omitted]

A coup d'etat, "schemed and effectuated" by the Soviet Government took place [in summer of 1940], and Estonia was annexed to the Soviet Union.

Since the text of the secret protocol appended to the Soviet-German pact has been published in the Soviet media, the memorandum emphasizes that there can be no further justification of the deprivation of the Baltic states of their independence and their annexation to the Soviet Union.

Genocide

The memorandum further notes that from June 1940 to the present time the Soviet authorities have been guilty of activities with regard to the Estonians that according to UN documents can be termed genocide.

Today, the "abnormal accumulation of Soviet troops", especially the huge number of missiles bases on Estonian soil, "restricts free self-expression of the Estonian nation, damages the natural environment" and makes normal life impossible, the document emphasizes.

As has been openly admitted by Soviet Estonian economists and public figures, the memorandum notes, since August 1940 Estonia has in fact been reduced to the status of a colonial territory - today round 91 percent of the industry is controlled by Moscow; the central government seizes more than 90 percent of Estonia's hard currency earnings, etc. [passage omitted]

Monopoly

As to the proposed Estonia's switchover to economic self-management, the memorandum declares such a programme "has no chance to succeed under the conditions of the power monopoly of the Soviet Army, the state security apparatus and the Communist Party." [passage omitted]

The only lawful and consequential way to do it, according to the memorandum, it to restore the state existing until 1940. Moscow's stance on the issue is revealed by the way it underlines the "historical reality" as part of the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Solutions

The document then accuses the Soviet Union of violating numerous UN principles, something which "authorizes the UN General Assembly to recommend measures for peaceful solutions to such situations."

In view of the above, the ENIP Council proposes that the Estonian issue should be put on the agenda of the UN General Assembly plenary session of 1988 and discussed also at other UN forums.

UN member states should condemn the Soviet-German pact of 1939 together with its secret protocol and recommend their invalidation by the legal successors of the signatories, that is, by the Soviet Union, East and West Germany. That, the memorandum says, would be analoguos to the invalidation of the Munich agreement of 1938 by Czechoslovakia and West Germany in 1973.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania should be declared occupied territories in whose case the promises included in the 3rd Article of the Atlantic Charter—restoration of sovereign rights and self-government to those nations who were forcibly deprived of them during World War II—have not been fulfilled.

The memorandum appeals for moral and practical assistance to the Estonian people to bring about the withdrawal of the "Soviet occupation forces" from Estonian soil so that Estonian independence could be restored and the universally recognized civil and human rights could be secured for its citizens.

The UN is asked to pay attention to the continuing validity of the peace agreement concluded between the Republic of Estonia and Soviet Russian in Tartu in 1920 under which the Soviet Government "unconditionally and forever" recognized the independence of Estonia from Russia.

After the withdrawal of the "occupation forces" from Estonia, the UN should guarantee free elections in Estonia, employing its peace-keeping forces, if necessary, and consider the possibility of admitting Estonia to the UN membership.

Neutrality

The Estonian people, the memorandum finally notes, have lately "expressly manifested" their wish to stick to the same principles that were pursued by the Republic of Estonia in its foreign policy—neutrality and friendly cooperation with all countries.

Signed by 21 people, the memorandum was sent to the UN Headquarters and the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, West Germany, Finland, France, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Holland, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Great Britain, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

ENP [as published] representatives at the press conference said they had information that their memorandum had reached the UN Headquarters. "We've done all we could," they said.

Anonymity

In 1972 a similar memorandum was written by two dissident groupings, the Estonian Democratic Movement and the Estonian National Front, but it bore no signatures and when it finally reached the UN Headquarters in 1974, it did not receive much attention, presumably because of its anonymity.

The 1972 memorandum did, however, receive "due attention" from Soviet authorities—Mati Kiirend and Kalju Matik, who are among the signatories also this time, received long prison sentences for their involvement in the affair.

On the 40th anniversary of the signing of the 1939 Soviet-German Pact a Baltic appeal was compiled by dissidents from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Among the four signatories from Estonia were Enn Tarto and Mart Niklus who, as a result, were put in prison; their release came only recently, but they have not been exonerated from their guilt.

This time news about the memorandum has penetrated into Estonia media, but the initial coverage has been extremely inadequate.

ENIP leaders told journalists that they are now going to seek backing to their memorandum from individuals and public organizations.

Georgians Plan To Establish National Front

LD1711151788 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] A meeting of representatives of the public has been held in Tbilisi to discuss the question of setting up the National Front of Georgia, the name being conditional. Taking part in the meeting were: persons elected at public meetings held by a group that has taken the initiative in this area; people who were approved at a general meeting of writers and representatives from all creative unions, the Academy of Sciences, Tbilisi University, the All-Georgia Rustaveli Society; and representatives of certain unofficial associations, young scientists, the press, television, and radio.

The meeting set up a combined working group whose members will prepare provisional texts of the movement and will carry out preparatory work to organize a constituent republican meeting of the National Front of Georgia. The group members were instructed to set up expert commissions and to bring scientists and specialists into the preparatory work. One of the tasks of this national movement is to combine and consolidte the forces supporting restructuring and the further development of democracy and with an interest in solving the nationalities question and other topical questions of public life.

The participants in the meeting expressed their negative attitude toward Article 108 in the draft law on amendments and additions to the USSR Constitution.

Constitutional Reforms Protested

AU1711153288 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow, Nov 17 (AFP)—Some 5,000 people protested against Kremlin plans for constitutional reforms and a recently adopted law regulating demonstrations in a rally at Kutaisi, in the southern republic of Georgia, dissident sources said here Thursday.

Protestors in Georgia's second-largest city were mostly students at the Pedagogic and Polytechnic Institutes, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, spokesman for the Georgian nationalist movement, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone.

No incidents were reported during the demonstration that came four days after similar protests by 100,000 people at Tbilisi, Georgia's capital, in which demonstrators had also expressed anger at what they called the republic's "Russification", according to eyewitnesses.

Opponents of the constitutional reforms submitted by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said the amendments restrict the powers of the Soviet Union's 15 republics.

The reform package is to be submitted to the Supreme Soviet, or parliament on November 29.

In a first such move in Soviet history, the parliament of the Baltic republic of Estonia rejected the proposed changes on Wednesday.

Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Discusses 'Problems'

LD1711103488 Moscow TASS in English 1009 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Vilnius November 17 TASS—A whole 'package' of problems connected with the current process of renewing society in the USSR has been brought up for consideration at a session of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of Lithuania.

Put on the agenda of the session, which opened today, are items concerning the status of the Lithuanian language, the state symbols of the republic, the course of preparation of a draft new constitution of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, along with traditional matters which are usually discussed at the end of the year—a plan and a budget for next year.

The deputies will also discuss draft laws of the USSR on suggested changes in the Constitution of the USSR and on election of people's deputies of the USSR.

Radio Previews Session

LD1711144088 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The 10th session of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation started its work today at 1100.

The following are taking part: Algirdas Brazauskas, Vytautas Astrauskas, Vladimir Berezov, Stanislovas Giedraitis, Juozas Lukauskas, Lionginas Maksimovas, Vyatautas Sakalauskas, Lionginas Sepetys, Petras Sileikis, Juozas Serys, and Kestutis Zaleckas.

All TV viewers in the republic have been provided with the opportunity to follow the session and listen to the reports made there. The session is being broadcast by Lithuanian Television.

In this bulletin we would like to remind you of the agenda adopted at the session:

1. Changes to the composition of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium;

2. A plan for the state's economic and social development for 1989;

3. Implementation of the 1988 plan for the state's economic and social development;

4. The state budget for 1989, implementation of the 1987 state budget;

5. Introduction of amendments to the Lithuanian SSR Constitution which regulate the state status of the Lithuanian language and changes to the state symbols of Lithuania;

6. The USSR draft laws concerning: amendments and changes in the Basic Law of the country, the Constitution of the USSR, and elections of the people's deputies in the USSR;

7. Concerning the Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR: confirmation of decrees adopted by the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and an inquiry concerning Deputy Viktoras Buivikis.

At the moment a report is being given concerning the plan for state economic and social development for 1989 and concerning the implementation of the state economic and social plan for 1988.

Commentary on Baltic Protest Situation
LD1711120088 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Commentary by Edvinas Butkus entitled: "Two Weeks of Waiting"]

[Text] In exactly 2 weeks the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet parliament consisting of two houses, will be convened.

It is only this year that the Soviet parliament began to show the expected changes in its activity. Yes it was only this year that the Supreme Soviet deputies broke away from tradition, deeply rooted during the Stalin and Brezhnev periods, to render unanimous support to everything and began to vote not only in support, but also against, measures.

Protests against the draft amendements to the Soviet Constitution in the Baltic republics are widespread. Comparatively reserved, but at the same time business-like, opinions voiced in the central Soviet press about the draft amendments supplement the Baltic protests perfectly.

However, won't this outstanding protest in the Baltic republics cross certain boundaries and, therefore, bring Moscow anxiety? Mass public organizations, one after another, are adopting corresponding resoltuions, more than 1,600,000 signatures have already been gathered in Lithuania alone.

Only separate aspects of the amendments are being questioned by individual citizens in the central Soviet press, while in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia the draft amendments are rejected entirely, without reservations. What is required is to improve the amendments considerably, thowing out centrist tendencies that encroach on the rights of the republics. The new draft amendments will be discussed at a later session. Three high-ranking officials from Moscow, Politburo members, completed 4-day visits to Lativa, Lithuania, and Estonia yesterday. Nikolay Slyunkov visited Lithuania.

A wide range of topics were discussed at a numerous meetings—the ill-fated issue of draft amendments to the Constitution cropped up.

While watching these discussions one got the impression that quite often both sides spoke different languages. The representatives of Lithuania, be they party leaders, ministers, scientists, or active members of the "sajudis" most often spoke about concrete constitutional postulates which were unacceptable. The guest from Moscow most often made attempts to oppose using general statements which expressed the opinion of the Politburo concerning the process of the restructuring and the concept of gradual implementation of political and economic reforms. On the Lithuanian side no one denied the need to proceed gradually. However no one would agree that the first line of the political reform should be the one which would be detrimental to the interests of individual republics.

There is no doubt that all the three Politburo members, having visited the Baltic republics, will voice their impressions to the Politburo which had sent them. Perhaps this moment is the most important because further actions taken by the political authorities will depend on these. The issue is too important to be left for the Supreme Soviet to decide. This is true the more so since the Baltics provide the unexpected. So, how will the Politburo evaluate the position adopted by the Baltic republics? We can only guess on that. However, the fact that the Baltic republics have become undoubtedly the frontrunners of restructuring gives certain hope.

Until now, vigorous developments taking place here were not impeded deliberately. Besides, positive attitude toward the Baltic republics by Mikhail Gorbachev and his closest like-minded supporters such as Aleksandr Yakovlev, is known.

As far as Lithuania's position is concerned, there is no sign of obstacles that would impede further consolidation during the forthcoming 2 weeks. This consolidation will probably be joined by the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet—which is due to assemble for its session this Thursday—even though this summer it was labeled as "shelter for Stalinists" at one of the rallies held by the "sajudis." Now the evaluations have become more realistic. After all, whatever the composition of the republican Supreme Soviet, it can disregard neither the current situation in Lithuania nor the opinions voiced by the new leaders of Lithuania.

During the last meeting with Nikolay Slyunkov, Algirdas Brazauskas, leader of the Lithuanian Communist Party, addressing Nikolay Slyunkov said: "All these issues of vital important should be solved now at this stage of restructuring of the political system, while adopting the law concerning amendments and changing the USSR Constitution. It must not be allowed that this regulation would create additional difficulties in the work to further expand the rights of the union republics."

In brief, two platforms have vividly confronted two points of view: that of Moscow and Vilnius, as well as Moscow and Riga, and Moscow and Tallinn.

In fact, no attempts were made to balance these platforms, to collate them during these 4 days. To do this, 2 weeks of waiting remain. Let us hope that persons and institutions who can influence the solution of these controversial issues will not waste their time.

'Nationwide Discussion' Continues on Draft Laws

More on Preparatory Panel

PM1611163388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
13 Nov 88 Second Edition p 2

[V. Khatuntsev "Reportage From the Kremlin": "Feedback"]

[Text] A session of the deputies' commission set up by the USSR Supreme Soviet Legislative Proposals Commissions has been held in the Kremlin. It examined the course of the nationwide discussion of the USSR draft laws.

The press once put forward the idea that we should adopt amendments to our legislation in the way that certain other states do. Ivanov's amendment, for instance... Sounds good! But what occurred to me during the deputies' commission session was how would we choose the author of the amendment—after all, the proposals and comments run not into hundreds and thousands but into tens of thousands, and many of them repeat each other. No, one cannot get by with just one name in this area. Although the working group reports presented to the commission gave the names and addresses of citizens whose comments were the most acceptable. The most profound and meaningful of the 15,000 proposals about specific articles of the laws were chosen.

Most of those who responded to the draft laws approve the first steps in restructuring the political system. Returning full power to the soviets and ensuring unity between democratic freedoms and civic duties in a socialist rule-of-law state has been the Kremlin mailbag's refrain over the last few days. There are pessimistic notes among these many voices: Around 700 replies made a negative assessment of the forthcoming changes to the law and the electoral system. Well, out of the more than 80,000 letters, telegrams, and articles this percentage can be considered a reflection of an entirely healthy democratic pluralism of opinions. Even at the deputies' commission session various ideas were voiced, including such an unexpected idea as... postponing discussion and adoption of the draft laws to a later time. Why? What was the argument?

The floor was given to one of the leaders of the People's Front of Estonia—M. Lauristin, chief of the Tartu University Faculty of Journalism. To a certain extent she repeated the argument set out in the previous telegram to Moscow from the front's official council, which believes that the draft laws do not accord with the course of expanding union republics' rights.

What do representatives of other regions think? P. Khabibullayev, chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, G. Yeremey, chairman of the Moldavian SSR Republic Trade Union Council, G. Tarazevich, chairman of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, V. Kazakov, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and other speakers at the commission session noted that only a strong union state can ensure the effective development of all republics. Postponing adoption of the laws would mean slowing succeeding reform steps, which will be aimed at achieving progress in spheres such as the economy, law, and national state building.

The danger of getting restructuring bogged down was recalled by P. Gilashvili, chairman of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who stressed that the strategic provisions of current development were also discussed in depth on the eve and in the course of the party conference and were enshrined in the party forum's resolutions. What are we supposed to do now—turn life into one endless rally?...

I do not want readers to get the impression that the arguments at the commission session were in any way excessive. Nor should any element of sensationalism be sought in the fact that representatives of a People's Front were invited. A social organization is entitled to be heard by deputies of the supreme organ of power. The list of lessons in democracy has only just begun.

Without exaggeration millions of people are now thinking about the democratic basis of our legislation and a self-regulating legal mechanism. That is why the deputies' discussions centered on the proposals and amendments which are to provide guarantees for certain innovations. For instance, the election of judges is a question of considerable importance. As is well known, the draft law states that judges shall be elected by the corresponding soviets of people's deputies. The logic of many of the people who responded describes various situations in which judges could find their "hands tied" by following such a procedure. Suppose it is necessary to rule on a local soviet that takes actions that fall outside its purview. Morally the judge is dependent on the soviet: Will he have the objectivity and the simple courage to defend the interests of the law?

The commission devoted a great deal of attention to questions of the electoral system. Letters and other responses talked about abandoning the practice of dual representation by deputies [dvoynoye deputatstvo]. But imagine a specific instance—an oblast soviet chairman who is only supposed to be elected next year. We are used to leaders at this level being part of the supreme organ of state power, but then the person in question will no longer be able to run for the oblast soviet... So answer that one, look for alternatives.

A typical feature of the legislators' work is their painstaking selection of representative materials. There were many proposals that bore no direct relation to the draft laws. Some people were worried about the procedure for shaping local soviet budgets, others wrote in about changes to the preamble to the USSR Constitution. The working groups and the deputies' commission are storing up all these ideas for the future, when it will be time to

extensively discuss the foundations of self-management and the aforementioned preamble. Feedback in this instance is a long-term matter. For the time being the commission has consented to a number of specific amendments and additions to the draft laws, which will have to be examined at the USSR Supreme Soviet session in the near future.

A. Lukyanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, took part in the session's work.

PRAVDA Editorial

PM1611152788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Nov 88 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Developing People's Power. Discussion of Draft Laws Under Way"]

[Text] Every day the editorial bureau receives letters in which people share their thoughts about the draft laws. Submitted for nationwide discussion, they have generated a lively interest. "It is gratifying to see how the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference to deepen restructuring are being put into practice," V. Dunichev writes from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. "In implementing restructuring, the party is bringing more and more new mechanisms into its development." "I approve the draft laws, but I want to note that the documents make no mention of the fact that rural and settlement soviet deputies will still have to be selected from among citizens living on the territories of the given electoral okrugs," B. Yanovskiy of Volgograd notes.

The overwhelming majority of readers approve the draft laws, clarify certain provisions, and propose amending them. There have also been letters which talk of a lack of understanding for the proposed changes or go beyond the framework of the problems under discussion. In this respect we would like to stress yet again that the draft laws do not affect the whole of the current Constitution, merely the organization and activities of organs of state power and administration, reforms of judicial organs, and the procedure for electing people's deputies. As was noted at the 10 November CPSU Central Committee Politburo session, which examined topical questions of the reform of the political system and the progress of the nationwide discussion of the USSR draft laws on changes and additions to the USSR Constitution and on the election of USSR people's deputies, it is planned to resolve other major tasks at subsequent stages of the political transformations.

The measures outlined by the draft laws make it possible to sharply increase the soviets' powers and potential and to enhance their value as voices for the will of working people. Profound changes are needed here in order to put a stop to the obsolete command style of work and to organize political life along the lines of genuine democracy and self-management and the principles of the Leninist concept of democratic centralism. Voters are guaranteed the right of selection and control, and deputies the right of representing voters' interests and resolving all the main questions of state life on a democratic basis.

What specifically is planned? First and foremost, broader sections of the population are to be represented in the country's supreme organ of power. Entirely new organizations—a USSR Congress of People's Deputies and union and autonomous republic congresses of people's deputies—are to be set up. The USSR Congress of People's Deputies is to be the supreme organ of state power. All its deputies will be equal. Some of them will represent the country's entire population as a whole, others will represent national-territorial units, while others will represent social organizations. The congresses will openly [glasno] and freely discuss the most important questions of our life. Thus, the most urgent problems for millions of people will be collectively discussed at the highest level in a direct and highly immediate fashion and will become part of state decisions whose fulfillment will be controlled by organs of power and social organizations.

The functions of the USSR Supreme Soviet are being redefined. Its functions are as a standing legislative, organizational, and control organ of power comprising two equal chambers: the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities. The draft laws have created the legal prerequisites for enhancing the activeness and independence of the chambers, and a substantive step has been taken toward overcoming duplication in their work and the lack of any separate identity in terms of their functions. For instance, the Soviet of Nationalities will now reflect and take more into account the interests of all nations and ethnic groups.

Social relations have been regulated, as a rule, by Supreme Soviet Presidium directives, Council of Ministers resolutions, and various kinds of instructions. There have been many thousands of these. It is no accident that nobody knew much about most of them. The focus of legislative work is now switching to the USSR Supreme Soviet and the supreme soviets of union and autonomous republics. Laws, as is proper in a democratic society, will be worked out by comparing various views, positions, and opinions—and this will be done publicly [glasno], openly, and after wide-ranging and comprehensive debate. The executive, control powers of supreme soviets are suffused with quite specific substance in the draft law.

The USSR Supreme Soviet will be a standing organ. It is planned that routine sessions will meet twice a year. And not for a few days, as is the case now, but for 3-4 months. This will allow deputies to really get to the bottom of matters. Moreover, state affairs will be examined not only at sessions but in chambers, standing commissions, and committees. It is planned that ministers and certain other officials accountable to the supreme organs of

power will not be eligible to run for election. This is dictated by the need for a strict and consistent division of functions and responsibilities among the legislature, executive, and judiciary, which is the cornerstone for the shaping of a rule-of-law state. The proposed restriction on officials elected by soviets of people's deputies holding office for more than two consecutive terms is a substantive condition aimed at establishing legal guarantees against any possible abuses of power or its excessive concentration in the hands of the same people.

The office of chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet is to be introduced. This is to be the top office in the Soviet state. The chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet will report to the congress and to the Supreme Soviet on questions of domestic and foreign policy and the USSR's defense capability and security, and will represent the USSR in the international arena.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium is to be the organizing center for the supreme organ of state power. It is accountable to the Supreme Soviet and is intended to provide effective links between people's deputies and the Supreme Soviet and to resolve certain other issues clearly outlined in the draft law.

Presidiums are also to be set up in local soviets of people's deputies. For instance, the work of kray, oblast, autonomous oblast, autonomous okrug, rayon, city, and city rayon soviets of people's deputies will be organized by presidiums headed by soviet chairmen and, in settlement and rural soviets, by the chairmen of these soviets. Presidiums and chairmen will organize deputies' work, in no way taking the place of ispolkoms.

A Constitutional Supervisory Committee will be part of the structure of the supreme organs of Soviet power. Its main task will be to ensure the consistent implementation of the norms of the USSR Constitution in the activity of all state organs and social organizations. This is determined by the very makeup and powers of the committee. It will include specialists in the sphere of politics and law.

The provisions of the draft laws under discussion will substantially strengthen the prestige and independence of the courts, change the mechanism for setting up judicial organs, and expand the guarantees of judges' independence and inviolability. Judges at all levels will be elected for 10-year terms. This will make judicial organs stable. A law on the status of judges in the USSR, work on which is currently under way, will undoubtedly be of substantial importance in raising judges' prestige.

The provisions of the USSR draft law on the election of people's deputies is aimed at strengthening the democratic principles behind preparing for and holding election campaigns. Obsolete quota systems and directive methods of selecting candidates are to be replaced. Competition among candidates will be increased, which will allow people to get a more accurate idea of who will best represent their interests in organs of state power. The necessary conditions will be created at meetings for the unrestricted nomination of candidates. Everyone present will be entitled to put forward anyone as candidate. They may also propose themselves—this too is an innovation in our electoral practice. In order to register worthy people it is planned to hold preliminary discussions of candidacies at okrug election meetings.

The draft law provides for two-thirds of people's deputies to be elected from electoral okrugs. One-third—that is, 750 deputies—will be elected from all-union organizations. Lists of candidate USSR people's deputies nominated by social organizations will be published for discussion by the population 2 months prior to the elections. Candidates will then be elected by secret ballot at congresses, social organization conferences, or at plenums taking account of the opinions of local organizations and the general public.

The voting procedure is also to be improved. It will be active and take account of different variables. For instance, it could be that only one candidate will stand in an okrug. Then the so-called "active ballot paper" would come into action, on which the words "for" and "against" would have to be entered. Voters must in all cases express their attitudes to the candidate and determine whether they will vote for him or not. If this is not done the ballot paper will be considered spoiled. Active voting will also be used when there are several candidates in an okrug. Voters will have to leave untouched the name of the candidate for whom they are voting, while striking out the other names. If this is not done the ballot paper will again be considered spoiled.

The count is of fundamental importance. In most countries the count is based on the number of people who voted. Whereas in our country it has been based on the total number of voters registered in the okrug. We are now abandoning this practice. This will make it possible to avoid sham and formalism, which, regrettably, have occurred in the past.

The draft laws include other important additions and changes. These are now being analyzed. Party organizations and the mass media are called upon to comprehensively explain the provisions of the documents to people. It is important that newspapers, the television, and the radio should not reflect unilateral judgments but should put forward different opinions.

Complaints that there is allegedly not enough time to discuss the documents have been heard from time to time. What can be said on this score? The main provisions of the reform of the political system were set out at the 19th party conference in its decisions and resolutions. They are not new to us. Everything can be thoroughly looked into in the month that remains. We should also take account of the fact that the work on the reform of the political system is only starting and it would be inexpedient to delay it.

The nationwide discussion of the draft laws is one form of active participation by citizens in reforming the political system, enhancing the role of the soviets, and democratizing all spheres of our life. Thousands and thousands of people have already stated their attitude to the draft laws. The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has received more than 80,000 responses from individual citizens and organizations. The CPSU Central Committee Politburo has stressed the need to take account of remarks in the most thorough manner and not leave a single argument unattended.

The concerted and increasingly coordinated work of Soviet people and the CPSU strengthens the positions of restructuring and makes it irreversible. And it is typical that more and more people are becoming involved in the process of renewing our society. The main thing today is practical work.

Readers Ponder Draft Laws

PM1611161388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Nov 88 Second Edition p 3

[T. Volkova article under the rubric "We Discuss Draft Laws": "Power of the Soviets, Power of the People. Letters Keep Up the Argument"]

[Text] **The editorial office received the first suggestions from our readers literally the day after the draft USSR Law on Amendments and Additions to the USSR Constitution and Law on Election of USSR People's Deputies were published, and some 3,000 letters have been received during the 3 weeks of discussion. The letters to us were from workers, doctors and candidates of sciences, party workers and veterans, jurists, engineers, and housewives.**

What prompted such interest on the part of our country's citizens in these documents? The majority perceived in them guarantees of our society's further democratization and an affirmation of the course toward creating a rule-of-law state and deepening restructuring which was adopted by the 19th all-union party conference.

"The drafts published by the press are yet another confirmation of the strengthening process of democratization and glasnost. They reveal the content of the new structure of the organs of state power and formulate in a new fashion many crucial aspects of the electoral system. The current constitution was adopted only 11 years ago, but restructuring in the political and economic spheres and in all spheres of society's life demanded a review of a number of its provisions," S. Antonov, lecturer at No 35 Rural Vocational and Technical School in the city of Likhoslavl, Kalinin Oblast, begins his letter. Many more of our readers also begin their letters along similar lines.

But there is virtually not a single letter that stops there. There follow specific remarks, suggestions, and additions, with S. Antonov himself suggesting the introduction of amendments to six articles of the Constitution which are under discussion.

Of course, the readers' opinions on the new draft laws do not coincide in everything, and at times they are even diametrically opposite. We are not going to evaluate them now, but here is an interesting point: Different opinions cross especially frequently on a number of individual provisions of the draft, usually those covering innovations in the country's political life.

Very many readers were confused by a new element in the electoral system—the election of deputies by public organizations. Questions were raised about the allocation of deputies' mandates among these organizations, the system for nomination of candidates by them, and the voting procedure.

Here is quite a typical letter: "The draft declares that elections are equal, but is it equality when one group of the population, namely members of public organizations' central elected organs, is given the right to vote at least twice—at their place of residence and on behalf of the public organization—while all the rest have just one vote? Moreover, some citizens are concurrently members of several elected organs, and can thus vote three and even five times. Therefore, the elections are not universal—there is a restriction of citizens' electoral rights. So the number of people's deputies can remain unchanged, but the right to elect them should be vested in all citizens, with public organizations being given an unlimited right to nominate candidate deputies and campaign for them," Muscovite Candidate of Philosophical Sciences Kh. Delmayev writes.

V. Alekseyeva from Leningrad is perplexed by the fact that two organizations as different as the CPSU and the cooperatives are assigned the same number of seats. Scientific workers and creative unions are to elect 75 deputies each, but since the working class has no organization but the trade unions, of which all working people are members, this category is not to elect a single deputy. Repairman B. Degtyarev from Simferopol's "Prodmash" Plant and lecturer A. Korobeynik from the city of Severodvinsk in Arkhangelsk Oblast suggest that the working class be deemed to be represented by labor collective councils, and they perceive these councils as embodiments of Soviet power directly at enterprise level. V. Marks, chairman of the Latvian SSR's Radopolskiy Rural Soviet Ispolkom, and P. Garachuk from the city of Ananyev in Odessa Oblast believe that, in all cases, the number of seats assigned to a public organization should be determined according to a sole criterion—how many members it has.

Readers' attention has been attracted by Article 100 of the USSR Constitution and Article 9 of the Law on Election of USSR People's Deputies, which say that "as a rule, more candidates than there are seats are included on the ballot paper." "It is necessary to delete the words 'as a rule' since they provide an excuse to turn the exception into a norm," according to scientific staffer Ye. Karchevskiy from Semipalatinsk, I. Kozlovskiy, physician at Ivyevskiy Rayon's Central Hospital

(Grodno Oblast), and others. N. Shvetsov, tutor at the No 102 Rural Vocational and Technical School in the city of Brisk, Bashkir ASSR, suggests the deletion of the proviso "if only one candidate stands in a given electoral okrug..." from the Law on Elections. In his opinion, there is no need for such an "if." Readers note that there can be no elections without choice, that we cannot return to the situation whereby we all voted for the single candidate offered to us and who was only vaguely known to many voters.

These selfsame considerations also guide those who have written to the editorial office about the procedure for nomination of candidate deputies and discussion of their nomination: People want to know better those who will represent their interests in the organs of power. Hence many deem it necessary to nominate as candidate deputies people who actually live in the territory of their electoral okrug and suggest a mandatory condition that they present to the voters a program for their future activity as deputies, and for this purpose they suggest in particular that the duration of election campaigns be extended to 8 months and that voters be more widely informed about the candidate by his agents and the mass media.

"In my view," candidate of technical sciences L. Kozlov writes from Alma-Ata, "candidate deputies should be more than just good workers and positive personalities. In the course of election campaigns and in their speeches, including those at okrug election campaign meetings, they should prove that they have elaborated a program for their future activity." He is backed by P. Kovshar from the city of Mirgorod in Poltava Oblast: "It is only right that a deputy should be elected by his fellow residents and fellow citizens. Such a deputy can be taken to task by the people and he would be personally interested in following the voters' instructions."

At the same time, there are quite a few letters calling for voters to be given the right to also elect the leaders of soviets. "Chairmen of soviets at all levels must be elected in a direct secret ballot by the voters. There must be at least two candidates for the position of chairman of a soviet of people's deputies at any level," I. Bukharov writes from the city of Zhdanov in Donetsk Oblast. "We should certainly not be afraid that the masses might elect an 'immature' leader of Soviet power. The people are perfectly well aware and they know 'who is who,'" N. Svistunov, director of the "Rosagropromopt" Center's "Rostovskiy" Branch (Rostov-na-Donu), backs him. "The suggested form for electing leaders of soviets is indirect and legitimates indirect elections, which, in my view, is undemocratic," Ye. Pecherskiy, senior captain's assistant of the "Sevzaprybvod" Administration in Leningrad, adds.

Our readers attach paramount importance to broad press coverage of the election campaign and the election itself. They believe that even the counting of ballot papers should take place before representatives of the public and the mass media (S. Badmayev, senior lecturer at the Buryat State Teacher Training Institute, Ulan-Ude).

There were, naturally, many jurists among our letterwriters and, of course, their interest focused primarily on the articles of the constitution covering the election and activity of people's courts. There were many comments on V. Savitskiy's article "So What Sort of Court Do We Need?" (PRAVDA 26 October). There was broad support for his remark about the election of people's judges by soviets at the same level. The election must be done by higher-ranking soviets, which would be in line with the 19th all-union party conference decisions—this is the opinion of our readers. "It would appear that the procedure for electing judges laid down in the draft fails to ensure their independence from local organs of power. This situation and the courts' subordination to local soviets undermine the very foundation of a judge's independence and he finds himself under the influence of local 'opinion,'" A. Kronrod from Ufa points out. O. Kuznetsov, chairman of the Captains' Council in Kholmsk Sea Fishing Port (Arkhangelsk Oblast) insists that the following provision be included in the law: "Any interference in the activity of people's judges and lay assessors in the administration of justice is punishable by law."

In general, let us say it again, the discussion demonstrates keen interest, numerous similar proposals on various articles have been sent in, and there are some which are oriented in opposite directions. But there is also something in common, shared by the letterwriters. "More glasnost, more democracy"—this is the basic idea behind virtually all suggestions received by the newspaper's editorial office. There are virtually no remarks which could be described as "nitpicking." I recall the discussion of the draft USSR Constitution held in 1977. A large proportion of remarks at that time focused on the formula "old-age pension" and suggested that it be changed to read "seniority pension" (and this amendment was adopted, incidentally). Now there are virtually no suggestions of this sort. People believe that the new laws are not just words, that they will be really in force, and that we must live according to these laws, the laws of democracy, the laws of a rule-of-law state. Therefore any deviations from these principles are perceived by people as infringements of their rights, and all their attention is focused on the essence of the drafts, on their meaning and content.

Finally, just one personal remark: "If everyone wishing to participate in the discussion sends in as many remarks and suggestions as I have done," Ye. Isakov writes from Moscow (and this writer's letter contains 17 of them—T.V.), "or even more, where will the editorial office find the staff to read all the proposals? And this would render this 'nationwide discussion' a pure formality."

We can reassure our readers: The staff has been found. All the letters have been read, a large proportion of them have already been published in the newspaper, and those

which we could not manage to publish have been brought to the attention of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Legislative Proposals Commissions, as PRAVDA already reported on 26 October.

Phone-in Program on Amendments

LD1211220588 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 12 November carries a 60-minute program entitled "Ostankino Studio on the Line." The following participated in a phone-in on the draft laws on amendments to the USSR Constitution and the election of representatives to the USSR Congress of People's Deputies: Profs Vsevolod Ivanovich Vasilyev and Boris Mikhaylovich Lazarev, members of the working group attached to the USSR Supreme Soviet commission assigned to study and draw up general conclusions about proposals from members of the public; Shamil Asgatovich Mustayev, an RSFSR Supreme Soviet deputy and chairman of the Presidium of the Tatar ASSR Supreme Soviet; and Konstantin Merkuryevich Sytnik, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences academician and director of its Botanical Institute. Sytnik is in the Kiev studio with correspondent Vladimir Sokolov, while all of the others are in the Ostankino studio. Yuliy Semenov moderates the proceedings.

The participants debate whether the phrase "as a rule" should be dropped from the requirement that there should be more candidates listed on the ballot than positions, on the grounds that exceptions have a habit of turning into the rule. They discuss what should happen if one of two candidates drop out before the election and whether the need for an absolute majority should be waived and a simple majority be made sufficient for election and under what circumstances.

Lazarev says the draft constitutional amendments do not provide for introducing the office of head of state or president. Presidential functions remain in the hands of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Sytnik says that the USSR Supreme Soviet chairman, who is described in Article 120 as the "highest official of the Soviet state" is indeed head of state. Lazarev insists: "We do not have a president and will not have one. We will not have the official post of head of state. We simply have an official of very high rank, answerable to the Supreme Soviet and Congress of People's Deputies." He adds that in "many other aspects" the legal position of the Presidium has undergone changes. Lazarev says: "If we bring in the institution of a presidency or head of state, then the question of electing him directly by the people might arise." Even so, in some countries the president is elected indirectly or by parliament, he says.

The participants go on to discuss the following topics: the amount of time allocated for discussing the draft laws; the proposed duration of Supreme Soviet sessions; whether staying at home should be considered a "no" vote; the advantages of electing representatives of organizations under the new system of elections; the functions of the new Constitutional Control Committee and election of judges; more on the functions of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium; and the need for amending the Constitution by means of its own provisions.

Semenov says: "You will know even better than us that an Estonian People's Front delegation has objected to certain points of the draft law." He cites a listener who phoned in to say that "in Lithuania a large number of signatures have been collected in support of the proposal to postpone adopting the draft." Semenov says: "If a session of some republic—whether it is a union republic or an autonomous one does not matter; it could be Lithuania, Estonia, or some other republic—if some large republic, or Supreme Soviet, or group of deputies in the USSR Supreme Soviet adopts the stance that the draft law should not be adopted in its present form or should be partially amended, what will happen?"

Vasilyev says: "The point is that it is not just the people who have sent in comments or phoned the program, but others as well have sent in proposals to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to our group, suggesting that a draft for overall constitutional reform should be drawn up, and that this draft should include problems connected with the state system as it relates to nationalities [natsionalno- gosudarstvennoye ustroystvo]. That is the gist of the dispute. Since these problems are not at the moment being tackled, they believe that the drafts are no good." Lazarev says: "You must look at the final version of the draft. We are carrying on our work; we report to the deputies' commission, and changes and additions can be incorporated into the draft. It is the draft—with its changes—that will be put to the vote."

Moscow Workers, Officials Opine

PM1411093188 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 6 Nov 88 p 3

[Yu. Kurbatov report on roundtable meeting under the rubric "National Discussion Rostrum": "More Democracy and More Rights: People's Deputies and Workers at Moscow's 'Krasnyy Bogatyr' Production Association Take Part in SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA Roundtable Discussion"]

[Text] The following took part in the conversation: V. Grigoryeva, deputy of Moscow City Soviet and team leader in a footwear molding and glue shop; M. Gavrilova and N. Romanova, deputies of Kuybyshev Rayon Soviet and leaders of teams of machine-setters in a shop at the "Polier" plant; M. Gerasimov, electrical shop team leader; M.Kozhinova, deputy chief of the association's labor and wages department; and V. Markova, party committee secretary.

M. Gerasimov: Restructuring, democratization, and glasnost must receive legislative status rather than depending on someone's whim. It is no accident that the draft new laws, particularly the additions and amendments to the USSR Constitution, interest everyone today. People see these documents as confirmation of the party course of further democratizing our society and involving the people in the management of all our affairs.

V. Markova: That's all true. But people often ask why there should be such haste. Why only 1 month has been set aside for discussion of these very important documents. Isn't it a return to the old days, when the people were asked their opinion after a final decision had already been taken?

V. Grigoryeva: Particularly as the draft laws contain quite a few gaps and vague formulations.

M. Kozhinova: That, it must be said, does not apply to the upper levels of power. There everything is noted and spelled out down to the last detail. But when it gets to the local soviets and their role in the country's political and economic life, the laws submitted are garbled. Surely the powers of the local authority should be underlined? I think that Article 89 should be supplemented by the following clause: **"The local soviet is the supreme authority within its territory."**

N. Romanova: The drafters have indeed taken greater trouble about allocating authority at the upper levels. But political reform is a broader notion, after all. If it does not affect local soviets, which represent the basic state authority in our country, can such a reform be effective? Yet, to be frank, a soviet is at present a supplicant even on its own territory. Its budget is limited and its authority nominal.

Let us recall the all-union party conference resolution "On the Democratization of Soviet Society and the Reform of the Political System." There, after all, it is clearly written that **"The reform of the political system must be comprehensive in nature, embrace all links, and be carried out in a coordinated way, in unity with restructuring in the economy and throughout society, and in the shortest possible time."**

What kind of comprehensiveness are we talking about if the local soviets—the most important element in the reform of the political system—are virtually absent from it?

V. Markova: And that's not the only instance where the draft laws diverge from the provisions of the 19th All-Union Party Conference. The report to the conference said, for example, that the election of judges by superior soviets is a very important guarantee of the independence of judges and the courts. But in Article 152 of the draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the USSR Constitution we read: "People's judges of rayon (city) people's courts are elected by the relevant rayon, city, or city rayon soviets." This provision applies to city, oblast, and okrug courts. **How does this square with the Leninist thesis that the judges are subject only to the law, as proclaimed by the conference?**

V. Gerasimov: I can cite yet another example. At the CPSU Central Committee Plenum June (1987) that same party conference resolution "On the Democratization of Soviet Society and the Reform of the Political System" spoke about creating, on the basis of the People's Control Committee, a uniform system of public and state control subject to elected organs of authority. But Article 92 of the draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the USSR Constitution now says that the people's control organs merely "coordinate the work of other control organs." The fundamental question thus remains far from resolved. The previous division of control, which prevents its improvement in any way, persists.

V. Grigoryeva: **I am worried by the question of deputies' rights and obligations. It seems to me that until we clearly formulate and consecrate their rights in law we will fail to make soviets' work effective.** Like it or not, the solution of these fundamental questions will again be handed over to the ispolkom apparatus. I will give an example from my own practice. I work in the Moscow Soviet's Health-care Commission. I keep tabs on, I think, one of Moscow's "hoariest" long-standing projects—the construction of the general hospital at Khimki-Khovrino. The construction of this facility, which is very important for the city, is now into its third 5-year plan. I chase things up there, whether it be piling or reinforced concrete that needs to be obtained. I travel around the plants; no one refuses, as it were, but little is done. Should this be a deputy's job?.

M. Kozhinova: Another specific situation. Because of the ministry's inefficiency our casting machine shop was idle for the last 10 days of October. The association lost around R2.5 million. In what way could we deputies have helped the collective? In practice, in no way. A deputy will obtain a response to an inquiry he makes only at a session. And whom can we direct our inquiry to in this situation? After all, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry, whose apparatus is to blame for our workers's enforced idleness, is part of the government. **Consequently, in such cases it is necessary to provide the opportunity for a direct appeal to the government by a soviet deputy or group of deputies of a different level.**

V. Markova: It is clearly no accident that our discussion is more about local soviets since deputies of the rayon level, who bear, in my view, the brunt of practical work, are assembled here. But the questions being asked today in worker collectives go much wider. The following detail has been noted, for example. Article 95 of the draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the Constitution reads: "Elections of people's deputies are carried out in single and multimandate electoral okrugs..." The natural

question is why there should be this distinction? After all, a multimandate electoral okrug is by its very nature an artificial formation and in no way augments democracy. And a deputy's work is more difficult in such an okrug.

M. Kozhinova: It thus transpires that there is one law for local soviets and another for the Supreme Soviet. Is that fair?

There's another thing I can't understand either: **Why are one-third of the delegates elected by public organizations rather than by the people?** We are now discussing the quota system which operated at elections until quite recently. According to it we should put forward a female Komsomol member or female nonparty person under 30 and definitely a woman worker from one of the main occupations, and so forth. One-third of Supreme Soviet deputies will now be elected in a way that bypasses us voters. **To be frank, this is the same old quota system, only slightly prettied up and legitimized. A loophole is opened up whereby someone who does not enjoy authority among the electorate but who is needed, say, by a particular public organization may be made a USSR deputy.** That, in my view, opens a direct route to the factionalism and local favoritism public opinion is so opposed to.

M. Gerasimov: Another question arises here. If certain refinements are not made to the draft Law on the Election of USSR Deputies it cannot, for example, be precluded that some voters will have two votes: One vote will be cast based on place of residence while a second will be cast, for example, at the Komsomol Central Committee plenum. That is why I think that Article 33 of the draft elections law should read as follows: **"A voter may not be included on the electoral rolls in other electoral areas or on the lists of public organizations."**

N. Romanova: If we have started talking about the fact that public organizations have the right to elect one-third of the deputies, the latter should have full equality of rights with those elected by some other constituency. But if you proceed from the proposed draft Law on the Election of Deputies, that principle is not observed. Article 37, for example, states: "A candidate is considered nominated if he is voted for by more than half the participants in a meeting or by a majority of the total staff of the relevant organ of a public organization." But if a public organization proposes several candidates, that majority could be considerably under half the votes.

M. Kozhinova: Although the all-union party conference expressed itself unequivocally in favor of combining party and state posts, discussion around that question is not over. We can understand when it is a question of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He has to represent our country in the international arena. And there is already experience with such a combination of offices in our country's history. **But why do this at local soviet level?**

M. Gavrilova: I cannot yet picture what it will look like in our rayon, for example. The first secretary nowadays has a host of routine tasks. And he will have to roll up his sleeves additionally in the soviet. For some reason no one is examining the following scenario: The first secretary is not elected chairman of the soviet. What then? How can this be made to square with the party conference thesis about democratization and the division of power? Our jurists' explanations on this score are so vague and involved that people are merely left bewildered by them.

V. Markova: There are indeed quite a lot of contentious issues here. And we deputies have to find answers to them. We can only be gratified by people's deep interest in our society's future. Diverse opinions are being expressed. But that is why, after all, nationwide discussion is taking place in order to make it possible to improve our political system in the light of various standpoints.

Armenian Presidium Discusses Amendments

LD1611131888 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2130 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] A session of the Armenian Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium has been held chaired by Grant Voskanyan, chairman of the supreme soviet presidium.

The presidium deliberated on the question of the discussions in the republic on the draft laws on the amendment of and supplements to the Constitution of the Soviet Union and on electing people's deputies. It was noted that the discussion of these important documents is continuing in workers collectives and among citizens in accordance with their area of residence. The mass media continues to broadly explain its progress. Proposals and objections are also being received directly from enterprises, establishments, organizations, and individual citizens. These proposals are being summed up and presented to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. While basically approving of the draft laws, citizens have made numerous objections regarding individual aspects and articles. The greater part of the proposals concern the implementation of the Leninist nationalities policy, the future development of the legal status of all-union and autonomous formations, and their constitutional rights and guarantees.

The presidium also deliberated the decision dated 4 November of the ninth session of the twentieth convocation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast Soviet on the draft laws on the amendment of and supplements to the Constitution of the Soviet Union as applied to the Armenian Supreme Soviet, requesting the latter to deliberate and introduce to the USSR Supreme Soviet the former's proposals concerning both individual aspects and articles of the draft laws in question as well

as other articles of the Constitution currently in use. The presidium of the supreme soviet of the republic decided to back these proposals and present them to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Presidium Considers 'Suggestions'

LD1711135988 Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Yerevan November 17 TASS—Follows news from Soviet Armenia:

Armenians Discuss Draft Legislation

A wide discussion of changes and amendments to the USSR Constitution and election procedures is under way in Armenia. A total of 3.5 million proposals and suggestions have been submitted to the presidium of the supreme soviet, a TASS correspondent was told. Most of them deal with more legal rights to union and autonomous republics and with the expansion of their constitutional rights and guarantees. Suggestions pay special attention to removing contradictions that arise when the right of nations to self-determination is implemented in practice. Suggestions and proposals that are submitted to the highest legislative body of Armenia are then analyzed and passed on to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet Deputy on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1611125888 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2130 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] As we have already reported, the 11th session of the 11th convocation of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union has been held in Moscow.

Among those who made speeches at the session was Kima Martirosyan, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Presenting her views on the plans for the socioeconomic development of the country, she said: I consider it my duty to reflect on the exceptionally acute situation that has recently been created in Armenia. The idea of an equitable political solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem has gripped all strata of the republic's population. All other problems, be they the guarantees for the security of the oblast's Armenian population or the acceleration of the oblast's socioeconomic development, are already subordinate issues to this idea in the working people's minds.

The tragic events that took place in February 1988 in Sumgait and in September the same year in Khodzhaly village in the Azerbaijan SSR will remain etched in the Soviet people's memory. This was the time when elements inimically disposed against our internationalism, against the friendship of the peoples of the USSR—against all that is bright and good that has always been the striking feature of the Soviet way of life—organized mass disturbances and pogroms during which completely innocent people, Armenian people, were killed or physically and morally maimed. Sumgait has remained an open wound in the hearts of the working people. For a long time—now, too, we must say—that wound has been inflamed by the flagrantly delayed investigations as well as the fact that the trials have been thinly spread out over a number of cities in the country. No information on who has received what punishment, or whether a political—particularly political—appraisal has been made of all this is received in the republic. The most severe punishment should go to the organizers of the criminal acts. Let us hope that they will be tried and will receive their just desserts.

I would like to emphasize the following one more time: A constructive, political, and therefore equitable solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, taking into account the expression of the will of the oblast's Armenian population, would eliminate tension in the region, restore life in Azerbaijan and Armenia to its normal course, and initiate the beginning of the reinstatement of our party's nationalities policy.

NKAO Obkom Chief Pogosyan Gives Interviews

Notes 'Tense' Situation

PM1711110188 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 4 Nov 88 p 4

[Own special correspondents R. Meliksetyan and V. Sarkisyan interview with G.A. Pogosyan, first secretary of Nagorno-Karabakh CPSU Obkom, in Stepanakert on 2 November under the rubric "Interview at Readers' Request": "Genrikh Pogosyan: 'I Believe...'"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is still a source of unflagging interest among the people of our republic. To meet readers' wishes, the KOMMUNIST editorial office sent some special correspondents to Stepanakert. We now publish their interview with G.A. Pogosyan, first secretary of the party obkom.

Stepanakert, 2 Nov—[Correspondents] Genrikh Andreyevich, first of all KOMMUNIST readers would like to know what your opinion is of the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] at present?

[Pogosyan] You could say that the situation is just as tense as it has always been. The Armenian population of the oblast awaits a solution to the political aspect of the problem. Feelings are constantly being heated by various events around Karabakh and in the oblast itself—this was shown by the events that took place in the settlement of Khodzhalu and, what is more, not only on 18 September but now too. Housing and industrial enterprises are now being built here at a furious pace, without the sanction of the oblast authorities, and a motor vehicle column [avtokolonna] is being established. Laws are

being broken in this connection—particularly laws governing land use. This is keeping the people in an extreme state of tension, which can only be defused by a just solution to the problem: There is simply no other way.

The situation in Shusha, where there are now no Armenians left, is no less complicated. I have appealed to the people of Shusha several times to return to their homes, but to no avail. To all appearances they are being frightened away by the fact that so-called refugees from Armenia are in Shusha, building up tension and making it intolerable for Armenians to live there. All this cannot fail to affect life in the oblast center. There are now some 5,000 refugees in Stepanakert from Shusha, Sumgait, Mingechaur, Baku, Agdam, Mirbashir, and other regions of Azerbaijan.

[Correspondents] Most of them are hoping to remain here as permanent residents. But this is causing a mass of new problems. What measures are being taken by the oblast in this direction?

[Pogosyan] We are faced with some very complex problems connected with finding them somewhere to live and work. Something has already been done. Many are now in employment, particularly those who are builders by profession. Unfortunately, there is another problem here: The inadequate material base makes it impossible to fully utilize not only refugee workers but also the main, local workers. I am referring to the material base of construction. In particular, we are now receiving only 25-30 percent of our wall building material stocks which we used to obtain from the Karadagskiy stone quarry. The situation is no better with other construction materials. This is causing numerous stoppages in construction work. And, naturally, all commissioning deadlines are being broken. Although in this respect we ourselves are to blame, as no work was done for a long time because of the strikes.

As far as industry is concerned, work is going ahead more or less, particularly at enterprises under union jurisdiction.

The situation with enterprises under republic jurisdiction is somewhat more complicated. You see, we have no single organization responsible for material and technical supply. There are great difficulties connected with importing raw materials and equipment. For this reason, enterprises are in a state. But, on the whole, I can say that apart from the silk combine all other enterprises are working at full strength.

Textile workers are short of manpower and raw material. In fact, mainly Azerbaijanis worked in the silk reeling shop and they are now refusing to come to work, for various reasons. In addition to this, the production facility is short of spun thread for spinning and weaving work. The collective of the enterprise is trying to compensate for this by organizing two-shift work for workers with interfacing skills, but the shortage of highly productive equipment is still taking its toll.

About food: As far as basic foodstuffs are concerned, Stepanakert and the oblast as a whole do not have any problems. There are no problems with meat. We produce enough of this to meet demand. The same is true of meat-based products. But we do not have a well-organized system for manufacturing cooked meats and sausage. Everything is all right as far as dairy products are concerned. We are managing to obtain other foods, and Armenia has helped us out with flour. The situation with vegetables is more difficult. We did not have a good crop this year. But on the whole, I think, we should not have any problems with food this winter.

[Correspondents] It goes without saying that in such a complex, crucial matter as the future of Nagorno-Karabakh it is hard to predict possible solutions, but we would like to hear your opinion nevertheless—what can the oblast population count on as far as the main issue is concerned?

[Pogosyan] From the very beginning of our movement we have raised just one issue—Nagorno-Karabakh's reunification with Armenia. It is unnatural when one nation is divided into two parts within the boundaries of one state formation. A nation which lives the same cultural and spiritual life, speaks the same languange, reads the same literature, and listens to the same music. But in the process of struggling for a solution to this problem, difficulties have arisen which have forced us to formulate the issue in a slightly different way: to demand Nagorno-Karabakh's withdrawal from Azerbaijan. If such a decision does not fully accord with the aspirations of the people, in any case the overwhelming majority of problems will have been removed from the agenda. I think that subordination to the country's central administrative bodies will allow the oblast to start living a normal, full life. All the prerequisites for this exist—both material and spiritual. This solution to the problem would generally satisfy the majority of the Nagorno-Karabakh population.

I am aware that recently there has been a great deal of talk both here and in Armenia to the effect that the oblast's fate has been sealed. Some people in Yerevan are even calling for renewed strike action in this connection. I would like to say with full responsibility that there are absolutely no grounds for this pessimism. I have just come back from Moscow, where I had meetings and conversations with the most authoritative bodies. I can say that the fair, legitimate demand made by the overwhelming majority of the oblast's population has met with an understanding reception and they are continuing to look for ways to reach a political settlement of this problem. So I will not attempt to make any predictions, but I firmly believe that a way out of the situation will be found.

[Correspondents] What, in your view, prompted the well-known AZERINFORM report that the Karabakh issue had been removed from the agenda?

[Pogosyan] It is certainly true that AZERINFORM recently distributed this information. Quoting official sources, it rejected rumors that the decision has supposedly been taken to provisionally remove the NKAO from the Azerbaijan SSR and transfer it to the RSFSR. Well, if such conjectures are abroad, they were neither initiated nor taken up by the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

But I would also like to touch on another point in the above report. However much "some people" would like to see the Nagorno-Karabakh issue removed from discussion once and for all, the very existence of a USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities commission chaired by Comrade Voss testifies to the reverse being true. I am sure that the document prepared by the commission is distinguished by its objective coverage of the current situation in Karabakh and by its correct formulation of the issues. The conclusions drawn by this authoritative commission will make a large contribution to finding the right solution to the Karabakh problem.

There is something else I would like to say about the report. Its authors became so carried away that, quoting M.S. Gorbachev's statement at the 18 July USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session, they emasculated his idea that a solution to the Karabakh problem must be sought through compromise. This is a real case of wishful thinking.

[Correspondents] The people in our republic and indeed the country as a whole are given scant information on progress made in fulfilling the party and government resolution on measures concerning the socioeconomic development of the NKAO. Could you give us some more details about this?

[Pogosyan] An oblast soviet session passed a special decision on this. I can unequivocally say that the plan for the socioeconomic development of the NKAO is being implemented badly, inadequately, and one-sidedly. We still do not know who will benefit from the resources allocated from the budget, through which sources they will be used, and which projects will be financed from which sources.

To solve all these problems we need to clarify matters with contractors, of which there are none. According to the plan for 1989, everything has been allocated to our trust, which has never handled construction and assembly work exceeding R16 million per year. But next year its planned volume of work will be worth R34 million. How can this money be assimilated if the trust's material base remains the same? This means that everything is doomed to fail in advance.

In this respect Armenian construction workers must make their own weighty contribution by taking the lion's share of the most important projects. In particular, we are counting on their help in building roads, supplying the oblast with gas, and building a palace of culture in Stepanakert, as well as hospitals and housing in the oblast center and the rayons. Only after this has been done will we be able to say that the program for the oblast's socioeconomic development has begun to be implemented.

I must also point out that construction sites have not been supplied with planning estimates. Orders have been placed, but we have still not received the plans and no unified order service has been set up to coordinate the construction work and ensure the optimum distribution of resources.

At the same time, I must mention the tangible assistance we are being given by the apparatus under Comrade Volskiy, the representative of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Arkadiy Ivanovich himself is a man of great principle, consistency, and clear integrity. He remains perfectly sincere in any situation and bases his conclusions on objective principles and also conveys them in the same manner to the country's leadership.

[Correspondents] What is the situation in the oblast's villages?

[Pogosyan] Unfortunately, there are some villages doomed to extinction. I believe our movement will to some extent halt the population flow from Nagorno-Karabakh and possibly also help people return to their homes. We are faced with grandiose tasks in this respect. We have to solve the problems of social, cultural, and consumer amenities, water and gas supplies, and the construction of schools and kindergartens: These are all at the rudimentary stage. Only by solving these problems rather than simply counting on people's patriotism can we create normal conditions for the revival of these population centers.

We are now beginning to broadly practice the lease contract system: Land is given over to those who want to work it. What is more, we give the leaseholder full freedom of choice: If he wants to breed livestock, he is free to do so, and the same is true if he wants to cultivate crops or grow an orchard.

What else can I say? If Armenia launches a campaign to return Karabakh Armenians to their homes, we will welcome this move. There are as many as 6,000 homes standing empty in Karabakh. As long as they are restored to order, we could receive 6,000 families without going to any extra expense. In fact, we are prepared to accept anyone wishing to return to the land of his fathers or start a new life in Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Correspondents] People in Yerevan's Theater Square are talking of the need to abolish the special situation in your oblast. They say the need for it is past and that it is preventing the normal rhythm of life in the oblast.

[Pogosyan] Naturally, the special situation does somewhat upset the normal course of life in the city. Rallies are forbidden, places of visual entertainment are closed, and there is still a curfew in force. But at the same time all these restrictions also have a positive side, because they make it possible to avoid the extremes which can arise on an interethnic basis. To be frank, I do not think that abolishing the special situation would at present contribute to stabilizing the situation or be in our interests. We will probably abolish only the curfew after the November festivities.

[Correspondents] The people of Yerevan are also concerned that dozens of young people have been arrested in Stepanakert. What can you say about this?

[Pogosyan] According to our information, no one has been arrested recently, and only 28 people have been arrested in all. These are mainly people who have been involved in arson attacks, fights, and assaults from both sides. It cannot be ruled out that some have been arrested by accident. Their cases are being examined as quickly as possible.

[Correspondents] Do you consider the assistance given by Armenia to the NKAO to be sufficient, and in what areas could economic and cultural ties develop more briskly?

[Pogosyan] We can feel all Armenians' enormous desire to help us as much as they possibly can. But unfortunately all this needs to be more clearly organized—there is no coordination center. We ourselves have no control over what is done and where, because people come to our oblast and go straight to a rayon, economic unit, or organization, do something, give something—but none of it has any system to it. I believe that if we are to guarantee the effectiveness of our ties, there must be an official coordination body in Armenia with the relevant powers. Through this body we could solve all problems that arise and achieve far more with the effort put in by our Armenian brothers. But most of all we need help from construction organizations. Unfortunately we have gone no further than the talking stage at the moment. The support given is more moral than material.

[Correspondents] What would you like to say to the working people of our republic?

[Pogosyan] First of all I would like to wish our Armenia prosperity. The Karabakh movement has awakened a strength in the Armenian people hitherto unseen, united all Armenians, and revived all their best qualities. I would like these qualities to be preserved forever. I would like us to be able to really feel ourselves part of one nation, irrespective of Nagorno-Karabakh's political status. I would also like to take the opportunity to express my opinion: Strikes are not the only way or the best way to voice our demands. Particularly now. I think we should concentrate more on forming the right public opinion on a nationwide scale. Our strike action certainly does not help to shape a positive view of our problems and to some extent is even very harmful.

What is it that we Armenians lack today? In my opinion we are not united around the republic's new leadership. I have a great deal to do with Suren Gurgenovich Arutyunyan in my official capacity. I have the opportunity to follow what he does, particularly in matters concerning Nagorno-Karabakh. He is very firm, principled, and exacting and endeavors to solve the problem in the aspect we wish. I would wholeheartedly wish this kind of persistency and tenacity in everyone who is a champion of our cause.

I can judge from my own experience. Our chances of success would be far slimmer if there was not total unity of views on the basic problems of Nagorno-Karabakh among party and soviet leaders and the entire population of the oblast. In this respect I have no reason to be dissatisfied—I have always felt help and support, although, speaking as a whole, I cannot say that everyone gives themselves with equal devotion to the solution of this problem.

[Correspondents] Thank you very much, Genrikh Andreyevich, for an interesting, meaningful interview, and allow us on behalf of our readers to wish you success in your work.

'We Do Not Doubt Victory'

NC1211104988 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Interview granted to a SOVETAKAN AYASTAN correspondent by Genrikh Pogosyan, first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] Party Committee: "Genrikh Pogosyan: 'We Do Not Doubt Victory'"—ARMENPRES headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] Question: How do you see the Artsakh movement in the process of restructuring?

Answer: Reconstruction in our country concerns all aspects of Soviet life. As is known, during the years of the personality cult and stagnation, the necessary attention was not paid to the ethnic problem and issues that developed were "solved" according to the conditions that prevailed at the time such problems occurred. The Karabakh problem, being among those interethnic problems with the most vicissitudes, could have been studied with the expanding process of glasnost, democratization, and restructuring, and within the framework of the conditions that have been created as a result of this process.

Those who are not well-acquainted with the NKAO problem may blame the situation that was created on restructuring, or they may assess the situation created in our oblast and around it as being against the process of restructuring. However, this is not how we assess the issue and we find that this issue is entirely embraced by the difficult and unalterable process of restructuring, which is aimed equally at reforms both in the social-economic and moral fields and in interethnic relations. Yes, the current phase of the Artsakh movement did coincide with the difficult process of restructuring. But this was not accidental. This stemmed from the course that the incidents took at that time.

Question: How do you assess the NKAO's current situation?

Answer: The situation in the autonomous oblast continues to be tense. The workers' collectives are falling into the rhythm of production with difficulty. Not all the residents support the special status and the curfew that was introduced in the oblast recently in order to normalize the tense situation in interethnic relations.

Until now we have been unable to solve the problem of housing for refugees from Sumgait and from other cities and rayons in Azerbaijan. I would like to point out that the autonomous oblast's workers are increasingly realizing that it is necessary to create favorable conditions for the USSR Supreme Soviet's Commission on Interethnic Relations to be able to carry out its activities.

In relation with this, the visit paid to our autonomous oblast by members of the commission and their meetings with the various strata of people had an impact on the situation and give us hope that the NKAO problem will be justly solved.

Question: What solution do you consider suitable for the problem?

Answer: The 65th anniversary of the NKAO's existence within the structure of the Azerbaijan SSR—an anniversary marked with this year's well-known incidents—leaves no place for doubt that the oblast should immediately be brought out of the structure of the Azerbaijan SSR. I believe that at this juncture only this solution can normalize the situation in the NKAO, and in the Armenian and Azerbaijan SSR's. I believe that the peoples of the two republics will support this kind of a solution, since this will help revive good relations between them.

I do not consider this solution to be a final solution. During the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said concerning the NKAO issue that no issue can be considered finally solved.

The Artsakh people firmly believe that traditional justice will be revived and that the Armenian people, who have been artificially separated, will be united again.

Question: What is your message to Armenia?

Answer: That we will not stop our struggle even for a minute and that we do not doubt victory even for a moment.

SOVETAKAN AYASTAN newspaper, dated 3 November.

More Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Personnel Changes
NC1611125288 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The 8th Session of the 11th Convocation of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet met in the hall of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet this morning. Present were Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, Oktay Bagirov, Svetlana Kasumova, Ratib Zeynalov, Vasiliy Konovalov, Musa Mamedov, Fuad Musayev, Artur Rasi-Zade, Lidiya Rasulova, Gasan Seidov, Suleyman Tatliyev, Gasan Gasanov, Rauf Akhundov, Sahib Alekperov, Shanlik Aliyev, and Nurradin Mustafayev and members of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the republic's government.

Deputy Suleyman Rustam-Zade, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet, opened the session. The convocation heard a report by deputy Nazim Mamedov and approved the mandates of the newly elected deputies. The [word indistinct] and the work agenda of the session were approved. The agenda was as follows:

1. Changes in the structure of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

2. The state plan for Azerbaijan SSR's economic and social development in 1989 and the way the state plan for 1988 is being realized.

3. The state budget of Azerbaijan SSR in 1989 and the way the state budget for 1987 has been realized.

4. The approval of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees.

Deputy Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, was unanimously elected to the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in accordance with a proposal by Suleyman Tatliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Deputy Kyamran Bagirov and Deputy Dzhangir Muslim-Zade were relieved from their duties as members of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Later, the session discussed the second and third items on its agenda. Deputy Ayaz Mutalibov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR State Planning Committee, read a report on the state plan for Azerbaijan SSR's economic and social development in 1989 and on the way the state

budget for 1988 is being realized. Deputy Bedir Karayev, Azerbaijan SSR minister of finance, read a report on the state budget for 1989 and on the realization of the budget for 1987. Deputy Ziyad Samed-Zade, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Planning and Budget Commission, read an additional report by the permanent commissions of the Supreme Soviet.

A debate was held on the reports. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Soviet passed the bill on the state plan for the republic's economic and social development in 1989 and adopted a decision on the way the state plan is being realized in 1988. The Azerbaijan SSR state budget for 1989 was approved and a law was passed in that regard. The session also adopted a decision on the realization of the state budget for 1987. The convocation heard a report by Deputy Refiga Kaziyeva, secretary of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the approval of decrees adopted by the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium during the period between the 7th and 8th sessions of the Supreme Soviet. The session adopted a law and a number of decisions in that regard.

The convocation relieved Deputy Nazim Mamedov from his duties as chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Credentials Commission. Deputy Vagif Guseynov was elected to replace him. Deputy Rasim Zeynalov was elected chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Foreign Affairs Commission. Deputy Ramiz Mekhtiyev was relieved from his duties as chairman of this commission.

With this, the 8th Session of the 11th Convocation of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet concluded its work.

Further on Azerbaijan CP 13 Nov Plenum

PM1611143988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Baku, 13 Nov—The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Plenum held here today has discussed the question of the restructuring of the republic party organization's work in light of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference's guidelines, set up commissions of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, and adopted a decision on the reorganization of the Central Committee apparatus of party gorkoms and raykoms.

Measures for the accelerated solution of the housing problem—the republic's most acute and urgent social problem—were discussed. A.Kh. Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, and other speakers noted that Azerbaijan is approximately 25 percent below the national figure for housing provision. At the same time the many decisions adopted on this question have not been backed up by concrete deeds and they have not been implemented.

During the preparation for the plenum, the basic guidelines for the solution of the housing problem were published in the press and submitted for nationwide discussion. A package of measures designed to eliminate the serious backlog was drawn up in the light of the ideas expressed and was submitted for consideration by the plenum participants. It is proposed that by the year 2000 the housing stock built in the republic throughout the period of Soviet power will double and that more than 650,000 apartments and houses will be built, more than one-third of them in the countryside.

The plenum discussed the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Bureau's report on the work done since the last Central Committee plenum, which was held in August 1988.

Latvia's 'Interfront' Movement Gains Strength

Goals of Movement Outlined

WA1800013288 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 18 Oct 88 p 3

[Article by I. Geyman: "Under the Flag of Internationalism"]

[Text] Under the chairmanship of R. Volyatovskiy, head of the labor collective of Riga's Latviya Sewing Production Association, candidate member of the LaSSR CP Central Committee and machine operator, the association's workers' club was the scene of an organizational meeting of the Internationalist Front of the Working People of Soviet Latvia. More than 500 persons—both communists and non-party members—represented the production collectives of VEF, the railroad car plant, Alfa, Radiotekhnika, REZ, Pirmays Mays, Rigas Manufaktury and many other enterprises, organizations, scientific-technical institutions and VUZes, as well as workers in the fields of construction, transportation, trade and consumer services, military personnel, the Salang Club (for former internationalist soldiers who served in Afghanistan) and others. Journalists from large-circulation, republic and central newspapers attended the meeting.

At the meeting a decision was made to commence the formation of an Internationalist Front of the Working People of Soviet Latvia and an organizational committee was elected. The committee is comprised of workers, members of the technical intelligentsia, students, reserve military personnel and members of other social groups. Seats on the organizational committee have also been reserved for agricultural workers. Its ethnic composition includes Latvians, Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians, Jews, a Lithuanian, a Tatar and members of other nationalities.

The organizational meeting approved a declaration by the initiative group for the establishment of the Internationalist Front [Interfront]. This declaration states that:

"In connection with the increasing activism in Latvia of nationalist and chauvinistic groups whose objective is the removal of socialism from the existing state system or a complete change of government we deem it our civic and human duty under these difficult circumstances to rise to the defense of the achievements of October and render assistance in restructuring through deeds, not just words."

While inviting people of any nationality, religious faith or personal conviction to join Interfront, its initiators emphasize that they resolutely reject nationalistic, chauvinistic, racist, neo-Nazi, bourgeois or separatist views.

The declaration also defined the Front's tasks: to resist nationalism, chauvinism and separatism by all legally permissible means, to oppose discrimination against any nationality in Latvia, to affirm the usage in everyday life of two equal languages, to make the broadcast schedule of Latvian television and radio conform to the republic's ethnic composition and to resolve important problems that affect the interests of our republic's citizens through the use of general referendums.

The declaration defines specific participation in restructuring as follows: personal participation by members of the Internationalist Front of the Working People of Soviet Latvia in efforts to resolve specific production-related, social and political problems, and support for our republic's healthy forces in the conducting of truly democratic elections, with proportional representation of all our republic's ethnic groups in organs of authority.

A broad social program was also approved. It includes a broad system of public monitoring of the distribution of privileges, housing and food and of health care, aid to elderly persons who live alone, single mothers, children's homes, concern for the environment, public control over state and cooperative prices and the channels through which shortages arise, a struggle against bureaucracy, red tape, callousness and distortions of cadre policy, a struggle against the dictatorship of the producers, etc. In order to solve these problems there are plans to utilize various forms of action, including the estabishment of a consumer protection society. The following is one of the slogans contained in the declaration:

"Let us close ranks and rebuff the extremists who would violate the integrity of our Union of fraternal republics, who are attempting to drive a wedge between the peoples of our country!"

Guided by these and other patriotic slogans, the organizational committee took up its practical work.

Front Protests TV Program

WA1800013288 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 20 Oct 88 p 3

[Article by SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA correspondents: "Interfront: The Movement Broadens"]

[Text] The organizational committee of the Internationalist Front of the Working People of Soviet Latvia, established on 14 October, is gaining followers. A meeting in support of the new public group, whose objective is to unify republic citizens from different nationalities and social groups on a restructuring platform, was held at the club of the Riga Civil Aviation Engineering Institute.

Over 800 representatives of 154 enterprises and organizations in Riga, Liepaya, Tsesis and Kraslava expressed their resolute opposition to the incitement of ethnic hostility and separatist sentiments and their support for resolution of interethnic problems through broad dialogue, with active participation by the working class, the peasantry, the creative and technical intelligentsia and young people, as well as their support for an active stance on the part of party committees and the LaSSR CP Central Committee on these and other matters.

The meeting was addressed by representatives of the Riga Railroad Car Plant, the Baltic Railway, the Central Research Institute on Civil Aviation Automated Control Systems, Riga School #51, the Latvian State University, soldiers of the Soviet Army and veterans of the Great Patriotic War. Those in attendance passed a resolution in support of a declaration by the Organizational Committee of the Internationalist Front of the Working People of Soviet Latvia [Interfront].

* * *

An expanded meeting of the Organizational Committee of Interfront was held. At that meeting nine commissions were established. One of them—the Commission for Contacts With Labor Collectives—is now commencing the formation of Interfront's primary organizations. The Propaganda Commission's job is to plan mass events—meetings, rallies and demonstrations—with the first such event planned for mid-November. Organizational work on these events will be done by the Mass Actions Commission. The function of the Glasnost Commission is to reproduce the Organizational Committee's appeals, petitions and reports and distribute them to the primary organizations. The Social Action Commission has major tasks: establishment of a consumer protection society, struggle against bureaucracy and other negative phenomena, support for internationalist soldiers, ecological efforts, participation in the Charity Movement, and many others. The Commission for the Drafting of a Program and Other Documents for Interfront will handle preparations for a founding conference. The Legal Commission will provide legal support for all events

conducted, and the Finance Commission will concern itself with the material base of Interfront operations. The Commission for Public Order will prevent incidents during mass events.

* * *

At the meeting the Organizational Committee adopted an appeal to the people of Riga. It states:

"On 22 October a number of informal groups intend to organize and conduct mass 'anti-migration' events in Riga; these events could lead to violation of public order. We regard the reading on the television program "Labvakar" (16 October) of the full text of a handbill allegedly signed by the anonymous society "Slavyane" as an inflammatory act. This handbill called on the people of Riga to take to the streets on 22 October and rebuff the participations in these actions."

"People of Riga! Go about your usual business on 22 October; do not engage in 'counterdemonstrations' and 'counterrallies,' do not allow yourself to be provoked. Interfront was not established for the purpose of confrontation, but rather for the purpose of consolidating healthy forces in our republic."

"With consciousness of complete confidence in ourselves, with a sense of our own dignity we will work to ensure that not a single incident disturbs the tranquility of our city."

"We deem it necessary to inform enterprises, organization and private individuals that any statements by the Internationalist Front can be considered valid if they originate with the Organizational Committee."

* * *

The Organizational Committee approved the text of a protest:

"On Sunday 16 October 1988 the Latvian Television broadcast "Labvakar" aired a special depicting in a grotesque, distorted manner the so-called migrants, feverishly buying up very scarce products in Riga for the purpose of exporting them and receiving the best apartments in the best apartment buildings. This special, like many other previously aired on "Labvakar," is a serious insult to the ethnic and human dignity of the Russian-speaking population of Soviet Latvia, of whom Latvian Television has persistently attempted to instill a negative image."

"The Internationalist Front of the Working People of Soviet Latvia, expressing the disapproval of tens of thousands of citizens in our republic, is of the opinion that:

1. Latvian Television should publicly apologize to its viewers whose ethnic and human dignity was offended by the aforementioned edition of 'Labvakar.'

2. The ideological tendency of the program must be changed in such a way that it will serve to unify rather than divide people of different nationalities and will not be aimed at one ethnic group or another."

This protest was sent to the LaSSR CP Central Committee and the republic Council of Ministers.

* * *

Anyone who is interested in the activities of Interfront can receive information by phone at the following numbers: 24-44-71 and 24-40-13.

Latvian Public Angered by Antiparty Slogans
PM1511114188 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 12 Nov 88 p 4

[Own correspondent V. Proskura article: "We Shall Not Allow Friendship To Be Ruined"]

[Text] The Freedom Monument in Riga's center is the symbol of Latvia. The three stars on top of the monument are the historical image of the lands which merged to form the single Latvian state.

The centennial of K. Zale (1888-1942), the monument's famous creator, magnificent "artist in granite," public figure, and internationalist, is celebrated not only in his own native land but also in other cities. In Moscow, where the sculptor worked on realizing Lenin's plan for monuments propagandizing the revolution, and in Leningrad, where he studied in 1917-1920. The participants of the international jubilee conference organized by the Latvian SSR Academy of Sciences laid flowers at the monument to the fighters who defended Riga in the terrible civil war years from gangs of foreign mercenaries. The author of this monument is Karlis Zale.

The Latvian sculptor's jubilee took the form of an international celebration. But members of the republican organizing committee also spoke with sorrow of the unsavory instances which can now be observed at the Freedom Monument. Occasionally this little square becomes a brisk market place for the purchase and sale of national symbols and other "ideological" items. Besides flowers, various kinds of advertisements saying that such and such a badge is "for sale" appear at the foot of the monument (on 13 August this year our newspaper described one such episode in a rejoinder entitled "Buy a Badge, Mister!")

Such treatment of a national holy place is intolerable—this is the Latvian public's opinion. Attempts by extremist individuals to use this sacred place for the unsavory purposes of inflaming interethnic strife are especially intolerable.

Other instances of separatist and nationalist phenomena also alarm the republic's working people. The course and atmosphere of the constituent congress of the local "People's Front" caused a great deal of unrest. The stream of letters and telegrams to party and soviet organs and the mass media testifies to this. Antiparty, anti-Soviet slogans and outbursts of regional chauvinism heard in a number of delegates' speeches at the "People's Front" congress, and the irresponsible claims of some petty local "leaders" have aroused indignation and hostility. This seriously damaged the prestige of the newly emerged informal organization, whose program enshrines the words "assistance for restructuring," which are sacred for every Soviet person.

The Latvian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, having examined the results of the constituent congress of the local "People's Front," determined the tasks to consolidate all the republic's working people.

The Latvian working people categorically condemn the denial by anyone of our socialist values, the Bureau's conclusions stress. Calls for the Latvian SSR to quit the union of fraternal republics are not supported by the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, or the national intelligentsia. Resolutions and decrees by hundreds of labor collectives and party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations convince one of this.

The celebration of the jubilee of the Freedom Monument's creator and the holding in the near future of the "Latvian SSR Peoples' Forum" planned by the republic's Communist Party Central Committee and other measures on a regional and all-union scale must be a test of political maturity for each citizen of Soviet Latvia. This is how all public organizations, headed by the republic's Communist Party, pose the question.

Latvian Separatist Sentiment Scored

PM1611165188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Nov 88 Second Edition p 3

[Reprint of 16 October SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA article from Latvian SSR Council of Ministers, followed by letter from Communist A. Grodzitskiy, inspector of Rezeknensiy Rayispolkom Rayon Department of Public Education, under the rubric "Letter to the Newspaper": "My Opinion"]

[Text] A note entitled "Your Opinion?" was published in SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA 16 October under the rubric "At the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers." This is what it said:

Many citizens have commented to the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers that in conditions of unsatisfied demand for many food products and for high-technology domestic equipment, furniture, and other goods, a considerable proportion of these goods are being exported outside the republic. Mail freight and railroad and air transport services are used for this.

Checks have shown that 12 tonnes of food products were presented for shipment by Riga mail freight alone in just 1 day. This included the following: 2,181 kg of candy; 250 kg of sausage; 1,951 kg of groats; 1,123 kg of canned meat; 219 cans of dried milk; 314 kg of canned fish; 392 kg of butter; 223 kg of flour; 275 kg of biscuits; 146 kg of cheese; 124 kg of sugar; and 7 kg of coffee beans.

The republic's citizens advocate using the food and nonfood stocks allocated to the republic, especially those of commodities in heightened demand, solely for supplying the population of their own cities and rayons. They propose that the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers adopt a decision temporarily—prior to meeting the population's demand more fully—to halt the acceptance and shipment by mail of parcels carrying food commodities. It has also been proposed that nonfood commodities not be accepted for railroad and air shipment from citizens who do not live in the republic.

Moreover, citizens propose introducing "visiting cards" for all the republics' inhabitants (for the entire territory as a whole or for cities and rayons) that give them alone the right to obtain from state and cooperative trade stores goods that are, in the opinion of the local soviet ispolkom, in short supply at the said time on its territory. "Visiting cards" are not a kind of ration card but give the local population the right to purchase particular goods.

The Latvian SSR Council of Ministers asks the republic's inhabitants to tell the Latvian Council of Ministers Administration of Affairs their comments and proposals on this question before 5 November.

Address: 226170, City Mail Service, Riga, 36, Lenin Street

[Grodzitskiy letter] It is political shortsightedness to live in a fraternal family of peoples and conduct an ostrich-like policy of barricading oneself off from the entire country.

If we descend to that kind of life, how long will it take for the consequences of this to then be rectified? If all republics start erecting barriers to trade and mutual supply, how will it end, and what flare-up of ethnic dissension and hostility will result? Latvia is second in terms of per capita mobility. We ourselves will ultimately come out the losers. Nothing of the sort exists in any civilized country.

Soviet people have R280 billion in savings banks. People work and want to buy what they need. Millions of people travel around our country every day. They are going somewhere to buy something. Local separatism will result in still greater stagnation in trade rather than an improvement in the overall situation. We will not improve the situation by means of this transitory benefit, and even less will we solve it for the future.

What if people begin to act the same way toward us? Russia will survive without our butter and candy but we wouldn't last a week without grain, coal, gas, oil, cement, iron, machines... and many other things. Muscovites and Leningraders can also calculate how all manner of things are exported from these cities.

Were there really few inflammatory speeches at the People's Front congress? That nationalist delirium that afflicted individual delegates at the congress—the yearning for some dim distant past, well-intentioned disservices to restructuring rather than support of it. We should think about who benefits from causing our country's peoples to quarrel, setting them at one another's throats, and only then setting about implementing economic schemes from that viewpoint.

I realize that the question has already been decided beforehand, but with this decision we are turning off the highway into a blind alley. This temporary success in supplying the population will end up as a grave political error.

We recently celebrated the jubilee of that great sage Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy. Remember his tale about the old man and his sons. If we set out along the road of self-isolation we will be broken like twigs in a besom. Yanis Peters says: "The people will understand." Yes, the people understood. The people are always right.

But that has still not happened in our country. During the most difficult years, our people shared their last crust. If we have been reduced to a state where we lack everything, it is not only as a result of the mistakes of the past but also of undistinguished economic planning by present-day economists. Another way out must be sought that accords with the spirit of restructuring.

A. Grodzitskiy, inspector at the Rezeknenskiy Rayispolkom Rayon Public Education Department. Throughout the 20th century our labor dynasty has taught children in the Rezekne City and Rezeknenskiy Rayon. I am a native of Latvia.

Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Holds Session 11 Nov

Issues, Particpants Listed

AU1611164388 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 12 Nov 88 p 1

["Information Announcement on a Session of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet"—PRAVDA UKRAINY headline]

[Text] The ninth session of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation opened on 11 November at 1000, preceded by a session of the Council of the Elders that examined the agenda and the organization of the session proceedings.

Participating in the session proceedings were: V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; I.G. Grintsov, B.V. Kachura, V.A. Masol, V.A. Sologub, A.A. Titarenko, V.S. Shevchenko, S.I. Gurenko, Yu.A. Kolomiyets, V.D. Kryuchkov, and K.I. Masik, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members.

The agenda and the session proceedings were approved. The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium submitted the following issues to the session for examination:

1. The 1989 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR, and the progress made in fulfilling the 1988 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR.

2. The 1989 state budget of the Ukrainian SSR, and a report on the fulfillment of the 1987 state budget of the Ukrainian SSR.

3. A report by the Ukrainian SSR procurator on the state of protecting state interests and civil rights, and on fostering legality and public order in the republic.

4. Approving the decrees of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The agenda also included the deputies' interpellations.

A report on the first item on the agenda was delivered by deputy V.P. Fokin, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman and Gosplan chairman.

A report on the second item was delivered by deputy I.A. Zabrodin, Ukrainian SSR minister of finance.

The floor then was taken by deputies B.Ye. Paton, president of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, and V.A. Sologub, Ukrainian Trade Unions Council chairman.

Deputy V.G. Malomuzh, chairman of the Planning and Budgetary Commission, delivered a joint report on behalf of the Planning and Budgetary and other permanent commissions of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The following deputies intervened in the discussion on the first and second items on the agenda: M.M. Kushnerenko, Kherson Obkom first secretary; I.S. Plyushch, Kiev Oblispolkom chairman; G.I. Musenko, rolling mill operator at the V.I. Lenin metallurgical plant in Donetsk; G.G. Nikitenko, Ukrainian SSR minister of the light industry; Hero of Socialist Labor N.T. Yurchenko, chairman of the "Peremoha Komunizmu" kolkhoz in Poltava Oblast; and S.A. Stezhko, Krivoy Rog Gorkom first secretary in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast.

At the beginning of the afternoon session deputy P.G. Kostyuk announced that a delegation of the Slovak National Council was present at the session. The deputies cordially welcomed the Slovak friends: V. Salgovic, chairman of the Slovak National Council and member of the CPSL Central Committee Presidium; J. Gregor, first deputy chairman of the Slovak National Council; and B. Biros, J. Varga, R. Schuster, and E. Lagova, Slovak National Council deputies.

The discussion on the first and second items on the agenda then continued. The following deputies took the floor: N.V. Lavrukhin, Kiev Gorispolkom first deputy chairman; G.P. Korneychuk, therapeutic section chief in Yaremche hospital, Ivano - Frankovsk Oblast; M.V. Grishko, Chernigov Oblispolkom chairman; S.T. Pliskanovskiy, USSR first deputy minister of ferrous metallurgy and general director of the production association of southern metallurgical enterprises; V.A. Rybynok, general director of the "Elektron" production association in Lvov; V.I. Trefilov, vice president of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences and director of the Institute for Material Science Problems under the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences; S.M. Kraminskaya, Shevchenkovskiy Raykom first secretary in Kharkov Oblast; and V.D. Ploshchenko, Ukrainian SSR minister of housing and municipal services.

V. Salgovic, chairman of the Slovak National Council, warmly received by the deputies, delivered a speech.

A speech was then delivered by deputy V.S. Shevchenko, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman.

The ninth session of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet continued its proceedings on 12 November.

Session Ends 12 Nov

AU1711105188 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 13 Nov 88 p 1

["Information Announcement on a Session of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] The ninth session of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation continued its proceedings on 12 November.

The discussion continued on the first and the second items on the agenda: the 1989 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR and the progress made in fulfilling the 1988 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR, and the 1989 state budget of the Ukrainian SSR and a report on the fulfillment of the 1987 state budget of the Ukrainian SSR.

The following deputies took part in the discussion: A.N. Popernyak, Khmelnitskiy Oblispolkom chairman; A.F. Gordiyenko, Nikolayev Obkom second secretary; S.V. Litvinenko, chairman of the board of the Ukrainian Union of Consumers Societies; M.I. Kotko, a teacher at Berezno secondary school No 2 in Rovno Oblast; and A.Ya. Gil, Ukrainian SSR minister of consumer services.

A concluding speech on the 1989 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR and the progress made in fulfilling the 1988 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR was delivered by deputy V.P. Fokin, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman and Gosplan chairman.

The Supreme Soviet passed the law on the 1989 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR, and adopted a decision on the progress made in fulfilling the 1988 state plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR.

A concluding speech on the 1989 state budget of the Ukrainian SSR and on the report on the fulfillment of the 1987 state budget of the Ukrainian SSR was then delivered by deputy I.A. Zabrodin, Ukrainian SSR minister of finance.

The law on the 1989 state budget of the Ukrainian SSR and the Supreme Soviet decision on the implementation of the 1987 state budget of the Ukrainian SSR were adopted.

The deputies passed to the examination of the third item on the agenda. A report on the situation of protecting state interests and civil rights, and on fostering legality and public order in the republic was delivered by deputy P.G. Osipenko, Ukrainian SSR procurator.

The following deputies intervened in the discussion: Colonel General of Internal Service I.D. Gladush, Ukrainian SSR minister of internal affairs; A.N. Yakimenko, Ukrainian SSR Supreme Court chairman; S.M. Martynyuk, Kiev Gorkom second secretary; A.M. Roshchupkin, Crimean Oblispolkom chairman; Yu.A. Lazareva, electrician at the main enterprise of the "Preobrazovatel" production association in Zaporozhye; V.I. Tsybukh, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary; F.S. Sderzhikov, chairman of the Donetsk Oblast trade unions committee; and V.A. Kislitsa, foreman in construction administration No 4 of the all-union "Soyuzenergozhilstroy" association.

The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on the item discussed.

A report on approving the decrees of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium was delivered by deputy N.G. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The Supreme Soviet passed a law and decisions approving the decrees of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

At the request of deputies B.I. Oleynik and P.T. Tronko, deputy V.A. Masol, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers chairman, gave a detailed account of the work performed by the republic's Council of Ministers and local soviets to locate an industrial zone in the town of Kanev, and to restore to good order the memorable places that are connected with the life of T.G. Shevchenko.

Deputy Ya.A. Kolomiyets, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Agro- Industrial Committee, spoke about the problem of reducing the content of nitrates in agricultural produce, raised in deputy L.N. Shunin's interpellation.

At the request of deputy B.I. Medovar, deputy V.D. Gladush, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, give a briefing on the prospects for reconstructing the G.I. Petrovskiy metallurgical plant in Dnepropetrovsk. The same problem was also dealt with by deputy Yu.P. Babich, Dnepropetrovsk Oblispolkom chairman.

The inquiries made by deputies V.A. Vasilchenko, V.A. Kislitsa, and B.I. Oleynik with regard to the construction of the Crimean and the Chigirin AES's and of a dam across the southern Bug River near Pervomaysk were answered by deputy V.P. Fokin, Ukrainian SSR Gosplan chairman.

During the session, Kiev Gorispolkom made public its answer to the inquiry by deputy B.I. Medovar at the previous session about the reasons for the groundless destruction of green areas in Moskovskiy Rayon of Kiev city.

With this, the ninth session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation ended its proceedings.

Ukraine Party Official Shcherbitskiy Appearances

Aktivs' Awards Meeting

AU1711122888 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 13 Nov 88 pp 1-2

[RATAU report: "An Award for the Republic's Stockbreeders"]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the republic's party and economic aktivs was held in Kiev on 12 November to present the republic with an honorary certificate of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee.

Presiding over the meeting were: V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; V.S. Shevchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman; V.A. Masol, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman; V.A. Sologub, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Trade Unions Council chairman; Ye.I. Sizenko, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee; V.I. Tsybukh, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary; and front-ranking agricultural production workers.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy opened the meeting. As you know, he said, having summed up the results of all-union socialist competitions to increase the output and purchases of livestock produce in the period from October 1987 to July 1988, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee declared the Ukrainian SSR to be one of the six winning union republics. In addition, they declared the winners to be Volyn, Zhitomir, Transcarpathian, Kiev, Lvov, and Khmelnitskiy Oblasts, 30 rayons, and 206 farms and enterprises in the republic. They have all been awarded honorary certificates of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee.

Comrades, on your behalf and on behalf of all the republic's working people, allow me to express cordial gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee for such a high appraisal of the work performed by the workers of the Soviet Ukraine's agro-industrial complex.

The meeting was addressed by Ye.I. Sizenko, deputy chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee and USSR minister. [passage omitted]

Ye.I. Sizenko then handed the honorary certificate of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee over to the republic's representatives, and congratulated the laborers of the Ukraine's agro-industrial complex on the high award.

V.A. Masol, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman, who subsequently spoke on behalf of the meeting's participants and all the republic's working people, expressed deep gratitude toward the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee for the high appraisal of the work performed by the laborers of the agro-industrial complex. [passage omitted]

Great October Parade in Kiev

AU1611115388 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 8 Nov 88 p 2

[V. Bondarenko, S. Zakharkevich, A. Maslov, and V. Nikipelov report on 7 November celebrations in Kiev: "The Great October Banner Calls for Accomplishing the Restructuring Tasks"]

[Excerpts] Our state color is red. This color is symbolic and festive. The 71st anniversary of the October revolution came to our land in red. [passage omitted]

On the festive tribunes there were party veterans, participants in the Great Patriotic War, frontranking production workers and innovators, and figures from science and culture, along with members of the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, deputies to the USSR and Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviets, generals, admirals, and officers of the Soviet Army and Navy, as well as staff members of the consulates general of the socialist countries in Kiev.

At 1000, to the solemn chimes of Kiev, V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; I.G. Grintsov, Ye.V. Kachalovskiy, B.V. Kachura, V.A. Masol, V.A. Sologub, A.A. Titarenko, V.S. Shevchenko, S.I. Gurenko, Yu.A. Kolomiyets, V.D. Kryuchkov, and K.I. Masik—Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members— ascended the central tribune.

Colonel General V.V. Osipov, commander of the troops of the Kiev Military District, which holds the Order of the Red Banner, entered the square in a convertible automobile. He received a report from Lieutenant General V.V. Tsvetkov, first deputy commander of the district troops and officer commanding the parade, and greeted the participants in the parade.

The commander of the district troops ascended the tribune and delivered a speech. On behalf of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's government, he congratulated Soviet soldiers, officers, and generals, veterans of the Great Patriotic War and the USSR Armed Forces, the working people of the hero city of Kiev and of the entire Soviet Ukraine on the national holiday—the 71st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

A powerful "hurrah" resounded over October Revolution Square. The state anthems of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR were played. The salvos of the artillery salute were fired.

The troops of Kiev garrison and subunits that had arrived in the city on this occasion began the parade. Following the tradition, young drummers opened the parade. The next to march past was the column of the Marshal of the Soviet Union A.M. Vasilevskiy Military Antiaircraft Defense Academy, which is the newest in the Armed Forces. Fifty-seven of its cadets have won peacetime state awards, and 19 of them have participated in the defense of the conquests of the Afghan revolution. The cadets and officers of the Kiev Higher Military Aviation Engineering School and of the Kiev S.M. Kirov Antiaircraft Missile Engineering School, decorated with the Order of Lenin, and of the Kiev Marshal of the Soviet Union I.I. Yakubovskiy Higher Tank Engineering School, decorated with the Red Star Order, marched past at a measured pace.

The ranks of the Suvorovites were very orderly. The Kiev Suvorov Military School is about to complete 45 years of existence. Its cadets approach the memorable date with high results in combat and political training. For the 13th time, the school collective has won the challenge prize of the USSR Council of Ministers, a bust of A.V. Suvorov. The Suvorovites were followed by the cadets and officers of the Kiev Higher Naval Political School; of the Kiev Aviation Marshal A.I. Pokryshkin Higher Antiaircraft Defense Radio Technical Engineering School; of the Vasilkov Military Aviation Technical School, named after the 50th Leninist Komsomol anniversary; and of the Kiev M.I. Kalinin Higher Military Engineering School, twice decorated with the Order of the Red Banner.

Next came the column of the Western Frontier District, holder of the Order of the Red Banner. The soldiers in green caps are vigilant and reliable in protecting the USSR state frontier.

A banner of the landing troops, who had arrived in Kiev for the parade, fluttered over the next column, which was followed by the cadets and officers of one of the country's oldest military institutions, the Kiev M.V. Frunze Higher General Military Command School, twice decorated with the Order of the Red Banner.

Drowning out the melodies of the combined band, the columns of combat materiel, operated by soldiers of subunits which excelled in the "Fall-88" commanding staff exercises, entered the square. [passage omitted]

Kirghiz SSR Holds Supreme Soviet Session

LD1611051588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] A Supreme Soviet session of the Kirghiz SSR ended today in Frunze. Deputies adopted laws on the state plan for the economic and social development and the state budget of the republic for next year. In accordance with increased demands, a transfer is envisaged of all production branches to full financial autonomy and self-financing. The rights of enterprises, organizations, and building sites have been expanded in the sphere of planning, the use of material and financial resources, and pay and work incentives.

RSFSR Supreme Soviet Session Reviewed

LD1611111488 Moscow TASS in English 0526 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 15 (TASS)—By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov:

"The economy of Russia is turning its face to every-day needs of man," was nearly unanimous opinion of members of Russia's parliament who approved the republic's plan and budget for 1989 at the just-ended session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. They were right in thinking so.

No matter what deputies were speaking about and what problems and branches of the natioal economy of Russia they touched upon, they eventually turned to social problems and social affairs. The discussion of the republic's social development became the keynote of all disputes and conversations.

Incidentally, figures of the plan adopted by the session also speak of the priority of social programmes. For instance, next year a rise in the output of consumer goods is to go up 6 per cent in the Russian Federation, while a rise in the output of the heavy industry will be only 3.2 per cent. Here is one more figure: It is planned to channel 58 billion roubles in 1989 for social and cultural programmes, which is nearly 50 per cent of all budgetary outlays.

Nevertheless, despite the general favourable trend and a noticeable rise in the level of appropriations for social needs, deputies expressed dissatisfaction with growth rates in the social sphere. It turned to be very neglected in the past.

Pointing out that the matter is not only appropriations, Deputy Nina Fedorova, a doctor from Leningrad region (north-western part of the Russian Federation), noted that "much effort will be needed for public health to stop drawing much criticism for population". Incidentally, appropriations for it in 1989 will total 12.5 billion roubles or 11 per cent more than this year.

Now some two million people do not turn up for work daily in Russia due to illness. "An enterprise is to blame, as a rule, for the fact that a worker falls ill, since it cares poorly for his working conditions," holds Fedorova and proposes that a material responsibility for working conditions be imposed on enterprises. They should deduct some funds to the account of local soviets of people's deputies for every sick worker, and local soviets will spend these funds for improving material and technical basis of the public health system.

Housing was another "sore problem" which was [words indistict] responsibility for housing construction. "Executives of any rank who do not ensure fulfilment of social programmes, above all for housing, have no right to hold their posts," he pointed out in his speech.

However, social problems embrace not only public health, housing, output of consumer goods and organization of trade. They also embrace protection of nature and human environment, as deputies pointed out justifiably. Despite a budget deficit of 6.35 billion roubles, the draft budget of the Russian Federation is to appropriate 1.6 million roubles for nature protection measures in 1989. Is it much?

Replying to this question, Deputy Ivan Cherepanov, chairman of the Planning and Budgetary Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, said very carefully the following: "Capital investments for nature protection measures are not used up regularly. Less than 70 percent of funds appropriated for this purpose have been used in the nine months of this year." His words can also be interpreted that the appropriations are too high. But Deputy Valentin Koptyug, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, was more resolute in his assessments. He put it flatly: There is no improvement for the time being in the ecological situation in the republic. "The turning point" in this sphere has not come as yet. Incidentally, the scientist reminded the deputies of insufficient financing of measures to preserve cleanliness of Lake Baykal. This means that the sum of 1.6 billion roubles cannot be regarded as too high.

As a result of a lively discussion, deputies at the session made several amendments to the draft plan and budget of the Russian Federation for the next year. But these documents did not satisfy all even in their final form: Though the plan and the budget of the Russian Federation for 1989 were approved by a majority vote, several deputies voted against.

Agricultural

Further Reportage on Gorbachev in Orel Oblast

Visit to Mtsensk Rayon Farms

LD1611161988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's stay in Orel Oblast is continuing. Here is a report from our special correspondents.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] The second day of meetings in Orel began with a visit to farms in Mtsensk Rayon. This is 70 km to the north of Orel, by a beautiful winter road. The area is very picturesque, connected with the works of Turgenev, with hills, copses, and the broad valley of the River Zusha. The first stop is in the village of Cheremoshny. This is land belonging to the Sverdlov Kolkhoz. The village is quite new; each of its inhabitants recently celebrated a housewarming. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev walked along its street and looked at the houses. At the culture center, he stopped to talk to the kolkhoz farmers. The chairman of the kolkhoz, (Ivan Andreyevich Ushakov), and rural construction workers are telling him about their village and the kolkhoz.

[Unidentified man] That's how it used to be, just a dead farm, a dead farm, only 130 people were left, 25 families returned, and 60 families from other regions.

[Gorbachev] That's interesting! But what is good is that the kids are growing up, eh? They already have a kindergarten and a school, and things have gathered momentum and the women are becoming bolder. [laughter] Our people are responsive, you love the soil, after all. It's good that the thirst for the land hasn't died yet. It is in the Russian nature, in your native regions, so the roots

are deep, deep. This is the biggest joy which lifts up the countryside. Has everything been sorted out with you, bread and goods and that sort of thing? Or not yet?

[Undentified woman] We've got everything.

[Gorbachev] You've got everything.

[Man] They'll even invite you to their shop.

[Gorbachev] In Orel they just said that there weren't enough children's goods. Of course, in Orel there are a lot of other matters, such as housing, but as regards food supplies, really, no one questions it. So it turns out that issues can be solved, even such difficult issues in such a difficult area.

[Man] Literally 2 years ago, the farm was on its back. The party committee and the kolkhoz management met, and started consulting: How can we continue? There's already nowhere to go. We all agreed: Without resolving the social program, we can't resolve [words indistinct]. Under normal conditions it can be better than in the town, so that people might be brought back here. There were, of course, many skeptics, saying there is no remedy to all this, the village has already fallen, and so on.

[Gorbachev] You won't get it on its feet again.

[Man] No, we won't get on our feet again. There were a lot of people like that. But these matters were of concern to our superiors, the raykoms and the obkoms, and we think we have taken the only correct decision to lift up just such lagging farms, which have become deserted and seem to have been abandoned. The news was simply pleasant for us that our farm was one of the first to be included in the program 100. Literally 2 years have passed, and on this building site R5.7 million have been assimilated, 102 well-appointed residential flats have already been put into operation—that is, with all amenities, natural gas, a culture center, a shopping center, and a school for 216.

[Gorbachev] Who built them?

[Man] The Orel agro-industrial construction trust.

[Gorbachev] Ah, your (?rural lease).

[Man] Yes, yes, a rural organization.

[Gorbachev] Did they build well?

[Man] Excellently. We are satisfied, for example, with the quality, and—the main thing—with the speed. You see, there was disbelief here, and it was stimulated again by all this. We had seen this several times before—that is, there were drafts, and all of this just remained. But it's actually the concentration, a completely new approach to construction, and it just cut the ground from under these rabid conservatives. On the basis of a concrete example, all the people understood, that is, understand. People's hearts just melted.

[Gorbachev] Is it all inhabited?

[Man] Everything is inhabited.

[Correspondent] There are no two buildings the same here. The original architecture of the detached houses, everything is beautiful, and tastefully decorated with trees and plants. There are now a lot of young people, and the average age of those living in the settlement has been nearly halved. Using lease relations, they have achieved quite good indicators in production. Profitability has increased sharply. The very conditions that have been created here are conducive to highly efficient productive labor.

Let's listen to what the chairman of the kolkhoz, (Ivan Andreyevich Ushakov); the director of the Orel Rural, Design, and Construction Institute, (Grigoriy Kharitonovich Ilyin); and the main engineer of the oblast agro-industrial construction trust, (Boris Georgeyevich Rashkov), have to say.

[Unidentified man] We began to introduce lease contracting in 1987. To date there are six detachments working, and the results are already, that is, the elements of the lease contracting are already yielding results. Even this year, prime costs have gone down in livestock farming by 23 percent compared to last year, in crop farming by 47 percent, and so it speaks for itself. To date....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] It seems they know how to work.

[Man] Everything is possible.

[Gorbachev] The land of Orel was always rich when it was rich in people. Of course the war was so hard in these parts. We were traveling and recalling what had happened on this very land. Everything was wiped out; the people and all the villages destroyed. It's good that this region, which suffered such destruction from the war, is now being reborn. It's very good, yes.

[Man] This is a second birth, a second birth.

[Gorbachev] I have already told the chairman that he ought to put on a bit more weight. [laughter] Otherwise, the profits will stick at half a million. You have to use strength, strength!

[Man] We're currently selling the houses.

[Gorbachev] Do people want to buy?

[Man] To date, 13 houses have already been bought. That is, we sell them for 50 percent of the estimated value, in installments over 25 years. People are buying, because they—so that the children should remain here.

[Unidentified Man] This is one of the first settlements we started on, in carrying out the program 100. A rayon construction detachment was building here, from Mtsensk Rayon. The scheduled timetable was 30-35 months, and we completed construction in 28 months. This is the result of a concentration of resources here—and the main thing: We worked together with the design institute. When we set about the construction work, we had practically no design plans, and the process of both designing and construction proceeded simultaneously.

[Gorbachev] Just now the comrades were asking questions, I know, and I myself was elucidating it, or clarifying it. Where did you get the money from? Did Igor Semenovich send it? Did he really give you the money? Did two memos come from the secretaries? Where did you get the money?

[Man] We had many sources, both our own sources, and the bank, the bank credits, and the budget, we were helped from the state bank.

[Gorbachev] So what was directed under the Non-Chernozem Zone, you have turned, and concentrated on this [word indistinct].

[Man] Yes, concentrated it on these settlements.

[Second unidentified man] The variety that we have achieved here is the result of different variants of roofs, roofing, different types of verandas, finishing work on the terraces. In all of this we have attached great significance to the architecture here.

[Gorbachev] Is it like that everywhere?

[Second man] Yes, we'll try to make things even better, in some places.

[Gorbachev] That's right.

[Correspondent] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev looked around the village integrated reception center. The most diverse consumer services are provided here. He visited the village shop.

[Gorbachev] What are you short of? Do you all have groats?

[Woman] We've got groats, we've even got two (?types).

[Gorbachev] But, after all, yours is a region where buckwheat is produced. Do you buy the vegetables, or do you grow them yourselves? [words indistinct]

[Man] We grow them ourselves, of course.

[Gorbachev] I can see that every house has got a cellar.

[Man] Yes.

[Gorbachev] Some only came in the middle of summer, they haven't had time yet to build them. If young people don't want to [words indistinct] buy it themselves. Where do you acquire dairy products?

[Woman] At home, at home, we've all got our own cows.

[Man] Cows, cows.

[Gorbachev] Your own, eh? So that doesn't worry you? No? Have you got a lot of poultry? All the farmsteads? And everyone has a cow at their house? Poultry, piglets? Are there (?less than the cows)? And cows have appeared?

[Woman] Some people keep two each.

[Second woman] And here, (?there are orders for books), the orders are fulfilled, periodically. Well, what orders do we have? Color televisions, winter clothing is ordered.

[Gorbachev] That isn't a lot, either.

[Woman] Overall, it's not a lot.

[Gorbachev] And televisions?

[Woman] No, we are fulfilling the orders for televisions. But carpeting is (?in short supply.)

[Gorbachev] That is in short supply too?

[Woman] In short supply, but we didn't have a problem. We are [word indistinct] for 6 months.

[Gorbachev] But nevertheless, it's a matter of children's goods, and for the elderly.

[Woman] Children's, and for the elderly.

[Gorbachev] Many trade workers have profited from direct links. In one place some goods sell well and others do not. In some places there are plenty of them, in others, less.

[Man] We have bought goods this year to a value of nearly R1 million, primarily from the industrial group, from the construction group, over and above the funds allocated to us.

[Gorbachev] That has to be....

[Correspondent] Those taking part in the conference set off further, for the Podberezovskiy Sovkhoz. [end recording]

Paper Reports Visits

PM1611160588 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Nov 88 Second Edition pp 2-3

[TASS report: "Being In Charge On the Land"]

[Excerpts] Orel, 15 Nov—The ancient land of Orel now sets a fine example of the socioeconomic restructuring of the countryside, which is being implemented in accordance with the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference. The participants of the conference of first secretaries of union republic Communist Party central committees and party kraykoms and obkoms, which was held here, were able to touch, so to speak, the practical experience of this dynamic process.

The acceleration of the social development of the countryside is guaranteed when a peasant gets the feeling that he is in charge of the land and is fully responsible for its present and future. The conference participants' meetings with the workers of a number of Orel Oblast farms graphically demonstrated this.

The conference participants were hospitably greeted at the entrance to the livestock raising complex on the kolkhoz named for the 22d party congress in Orlovskiy Rayon. There was a sign above the building saying: "Livestock raisers! Our target is 5,000 kilograms of milk per cow by the year 2000." Overly optimistic? No, people here are realists, kolkhoz chairman M.V. Spiridonov reckons. What they have achieved in the past two years is based on their economic worth, on an awareness of their indispensability.

"Yes," M.S. Gorbachev agreed. "Our people can accomplish a great deal as long as they can sense the concern and attention. We are here," he said, "to see why things have started to change in Orel Oblast."

P.P. Moiseyeva, milkmaid: The attitude toward us has changed, toward people.

L.I. Nenko, rayon agro-industrial association chief economist: People are noticed.

M.S. Gorbachev: I agree with you. The thing with us was that everything was humming—kilometers, tonnes, construction sites, GES's, but there was something missing. It was as if people did not count. No one was particularly interested in their views.

Milkmaid link leader N.I. Paramonova talked about her work and her plans for the future. Since January 100 cows have been leased and a contract has been concluded with the board up to 1990. The indicators are good and the yields are steadily growing.

M.S. Gorbachev: So things have changed with the advent of the lease system? Have they improved?

N.I. Paramonova: Because we ourselves are now in charge. We feel free and increasingly responsible for the work.

The link leader was not one for generalizations. She answered all the questions in detail and knowledgeably. I am 3 years away from a pension, she said. I have to reach 6,000 kilograms of milk by then. We will stick with the lease system. [passage omitted]

....There was a lively, concrete exchange of opinion, not weighed down by idle declarations and assurances. M.S. Gorbachev frequently asked the speaker to elucidate an idea, inquired about the state of affairs in the social sphere, asked about plans, offered advice.... Some leaseholders—link leader M.P. Belikov and potato-growing lease collective leader Ye.A. Kukushkin—joined in the dialogue. M.P. Belikov's words not only express the emancipation of a man who has acquired economic freedom, but also pain and responsibility both for the leased hectares and for his native land.

"People used to work lackadaisically," he said. "When they were working people were just passing the time; they would work the land but were not bothered about the quality of cultivation. But they were greedy for money. To earn more money. But now they have switched to the lease system things are quite different. They are now in charge on the land. It is the same land and the same people. All the combine used to harvest was chamomile, no grain. But when the fields were properly cultivated and mineral and organic fertilizers were added to the land it responded with 73 quintals per hectare. The old folks cannot remember yields like them. So things were quite different. The main thing is that people have started to work and they know what for. The lease system must be introduced.

M.S. Gorbachev: Yes, thanks to the lease system, people have leaped ahead in their work.

Uritskiy Rayon. Another place agricultural students, specialists in the rural economy, and individual leaseholders come to to learn about the "secrets of the Orel contract." The Mutsanov family livestock raisers link works here, at the kolkhoz named for the 20th party congress, obtaining the cheapest pork in Orel Oblast—R100 per quintal of added weight!

A microphone had been installed on a small platform actually in the street, 10 meters away from the entrance to the livestock unit building. The hosts talked about the initial results of contract collectives' work. The visitors put questions, asking for details about labor organization. In such an important state matter every morsel of experience is worth its weight in gold. Kolkhoz chairman A.A. Zhidkov expressed some ideas. It is important now, he said, not to bang the drum over the success of two or three family livestock units, but for every leader and

every Communist to ask himself daily and hourly: What did I do today to help these people who are reviving in the Soviet peasantry the sense of being in charge on the land?

The conversation M.S. Gorbachev and the conference participants had on the kolkhoz was precisely in that vein. What are the most vulnerable areas today in the widespread introduction of the lease contract? What are the principal guarantees that have to be given to peasants taking possession of a livestock unit—arable, feed shop, kolkhoz bakery...?

The pig unit that N.V. Mutsanov and his wife Valentina Maksimovna took on in January was the most run-down not only in Uritskiy Rayon. It gave only 22 tonnes of meat last year, but in the first 10 months of this year it has already given 73! Output worth R50,000 is produced per working person. Such results have not been achieved before in Orel Oblast.

"What is it, then?" M.S. Gorbachev asked. "You and your wife were working at the unit before."

The simple Orel peasant did not look for convenient words or excuses. The thing is, Mikhail Sergeyevich, he replied, that we did not feel like real peasants before.

M.S. Gorbachev: But why weren't pigs being raised before? Feed was being distributed, wasn't it?

N.V. Mutsanov: To be honest, it simply was not getting here.

M.S. Gorbachev: Yes, I remember what a leaseholder said in a newspaper article. Of course, he said, I see why the lease system does not suit everyone, including specialists—because the leaseholder establishes order in the countryside. No one can give him orders and no one can dip a hand in his pocket or in the kolkhoz pocket. Indeed, feed has a direct bearing on cost. So the leaseholder is not only setting his own house in order, but the farm as a whole. Not everyone likes that, apparently. That is why the lease system only happens where there is a good, progressive, and honest leader who feels for his people and for the country.

Aleksandr, a kolkhoz machine operator, started working at the unit in the fall with his father and mother.

"Well, Sasha, can you compare your work in the past with your work today?" Mikhail Sergeyevich asked.

"I feel free," Mutsanov, junior, replied. "There's more work, of course, but we have never experienced such joy in our work before."

N.V. Mutsanov: Obviously Sasha has everything ahead of him and I am happy for him: He is about to graduate from agricultural mechanization college. But I will tell you frankly, Mikhail Sergeyevich: The country's leadership, headed by you, has thought this lease system out well. People have woken up and started to appreciate that they can be in charge on the land.

On taking his leave of the kolkhoz workers and the Mutsanov family, M.S. Gorbachev said:

"I am with you all the way, comrades from Orel Oblast. Your calm, confident, thorough plans, your concrete actions. You spoke well, Nikolay Vasilyevich, about your son, about Sasha—he has everything ahead of him and he will not have as hard a life as you. But we are getting a small piece of that life too, its beginning. Now I would like to ask the Central Committee and obkom secretaries participating in this meeting what the people think about the start of this new life in the countryside.

Voice: The people want to get on with it. The leaders are slow to get into the swing of it.

M.S. Gorbachev: What is it that the leaders do not like? There will be more products on the farm, so what more do they need? Or is it that they are doing fine without the lease system, irrespective of the harvest? What we need today, comrades, is leaders who will make arrangements on farms with leaseholders not as if they are subordinates, but as if they are partners.

N.V. Mutsanov: Right, Mikhail Sergeyevich. Now work in the countryside is conducted on equal terms.

The ancient village of Gorodishche is the central homestead of the "Za Kommunizm" kolkhoz in Uritskiy Rayon. Only recently people were leaving the area. For years there was the attitude that nothing would grow properly on the local loam and podzol. If the yield was 9-10 quintals of grain crops per hectare it was considered a success. The feed land was disappointing. Only 3 years ago they were buying straw from the Ukraine and Bashkiria. Milk yields were 2,300 kg per cow. Then A.T. Semenov arrived as kolkhoz chairman. He had devoted his entire life to the countryside. He had been awarded the Order of the Labor Red Banner for his work. He had often put laggard farms back on their feet.

Today Aleksey Tikhonovich is deservedly receiving visitors from all over the country.

"There are 130 hectares of arable land per worker on the kolkhoz. We get 20-25 quintals of grain crops per hectare and by the end of the year the milk yield will be 3,700 kg per cow. We owe these successes to the lease system. Our entire kolkhoz is operating in accordance with this method, all its subunits. The lease system is helping us to get on in life.

M.S. Gorbachev: Do you have a real lease system?

A.T. Semenov: A real one, Mikhail Sergeyevich. We have 17 lease collectives in all: 7 in plant growing and 10 in livestock raising. [passage omitted]

M.S. Gorbachev: You know what happens: Leasing, selection, the feed base—remove one link and you get nowhere.

A.Ye. Kaydannik: Sure.

M.S. Gorbachev: The lease system will not save you if there is no feed. And selection, of course. It boosts production. What do you have, Holsteinization?

Milkmaids: Yes, Holsteinization. [passage omitted]

A.T. Semenov: The lease system is established here for good.

M.S. Gorbachev: Certainly it is right that all farms should switch to the lease system. But how are you getting on?

Voices: Fine. Comfortable apartments. In 2 years our kolkhoz has become a front-ranker, we have built a Livestock Raiser's Center, a Recreation Center, a kindergarten, and a secondary school.

A.T. Semenov: People have started to return to the countryside. Some 27 families have already returned. They are coming from other regions to take up permanent residence. We call this unit international: There are Russians, Georgians, Ukrainians, and Armenians working here.

Voice: We have enough food products here, but you can't buy sewing or washing machines and color televisions in our store. The clothes situation is bad, particularly for children. Goods are rather thin on the ground.

M.S. Gorbachev: Food, goods, housing—these are the main things that must be tackled now. Apparently, you have already solved two problems—food and housing. We are now getting down to the job of increasing industrial goods output. [passage omitted]

The second day of the conference-cum-seminar began with a trip to the kolkhoz named for Sverdlov in Mtsenskiy Rayon. The conference participants devoted a great deal of attention to studying the socioeconomic development experience of low-profitability farms in the "Program-100." The purpose of the program is to create in the 12th 5-year plan normal social and production conditions on 106 laggard kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the oblast.

The kolkhoz named for Sverdlov was one of them until recently. M.S. Gorbachev asked chairman I.A. Ushakov to give a detailed account of the work done.

I.A. Ushakov: In a little over 2 years 48 farmstead-type houses have been constructed, along with three 18-apartment blocks with all conveniences, a school, a kindergarten, a trade center, and a consumer services combine. And what we were hoping for has happened—the village has come to life. Some 20 families have returned to their birthplaces and people have also come in from other parts of the country. [passage omitted]

M.S. Gorbachev and the other participants wanted to know where the money to do all this had come from.

The explanation was given by Orel CPSU Obkom First Secretary Ye.S. Stroyev:

Funds are allocated to our oblast, and to other oblasts in accordance with the program for the transformation of the Non-Chernozem Zone. But we observe one essential condition: The money is not dissipated according to the principle of "a ring for every sister" but is targeted on boosting low-profitability and loss-making farms and providing them with social amenities. [passage omitted]

"Are you building both multi-apartment and farmstead-type houses?" Mikhail Sergeyevich asked "Podberezovskiy" Sovkhoz director A.D. Gapeyev.

A.D. Gapeyev: Yes, the different types are needed. Young people and the intelligentsia go for the multistory ones.

M.S. Gorbachev: Do they really?

A.D. Gapeyev: (Pointing at a cottage with an attic). Yes. Later, when they have children, when they get a subsidiary plot, they go here. (Laughter).

M.S. Gorbachev: How many inhabitants do you have now?

A.D. Gapeyev: There used to be 120, now there are 458.

M.S. Gorbachev: And what about economic results?

A.D. Gapeyev: In 1984 we had losses of R400,000, but this year we will have profits of R1,344,000.

On leaving the sovkhoz, M.S. Gorbachev offered to be photographed with the meeting participants as a memento. [passage omitted].

Television Coverage of Visits

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[From the "Vremya" newscast: video report by A. Tikhomirov, V. Golubev, and S. Medvedev, identified by screen caption]

[Text] [Correspondent] Yesterday the participants in the Orel conference toured Orel Oblast farms—the 22d Party Congress Kolkhoz: Since last year all its subsections have been working on full financial autonomy, on a leasing basis. Over that time they halved the administrative and management apparatus. And the business has not lost out at all through that. All branches on the farm are working steadily and profitably. And the main one of these is milk production, of course. Judge for yourselves—this year they are planning to get 4800 kg of milk from every cow. How much work has improved here is shown, for example, by the fact that at the beginning of the 5-year plan the milk yield was less by about 1 tonne. The conversation by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and the participants in the conference was precisely about how they live and work at the kolkhoz. [video shows houses, cows, corrals, farm buildings]

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] As soon as we've started to think more about the people, care for their welfare, things have changed right away. And that's everywhere, both in the cities and in the countryside. Wherever I have been I knew it and I saw it. And straight away there's a lot—they put their heart into their work and put in their effort. It's the same here.

You know, today the main thing for us—bearing in mind that many problems have accumulated, but we have singled out three main ones—in the first place is the food problem. You, here in Orel, probably feel it less now.

[Voices] It's fine, its fine.

[Gorbachev] Things are better for you, things have changed for the better. Around the country it is an urgent problem. We have come to visit you to see why things have suddenly started to change on Orel soil. Frankly we are interested in what is happening here. Why do you think this is so? What is happening here?

[Two women] People are (?working more, working better).

[Gorbachev] You were also like this 5 years ago and now suddenly you have changed. What has happened?

[Woman] The attitude toward us, toward the people has changed.

[Man] The approach is different.

[Woman] The approach has become different, there is more attention, more is devoted precisely to the area of social development. Then, after all, they have started to notice the man, man as the producer.

[Gorbachev] Well, you know the way you talk now you could go into the Central Committee or into the government right away. [laughter] [words indistinct]

[Gorbachev] That's right. I agree with you, I agree with you. Well, while we're still on this good wavelength of mutual understanding, let us say our goodbyes. [laughter] We'll go and see how you work. Goodbye.

[Voices] Good bye, goodbye. [video shows Gorbachev talking to a crowd; Vorotnikov visible in the visiting party] [end recording]

[Correspondent] The guests were briefed on the kolkhoz by its chairman, (Mikhail Vasilyevich Spiridonov). The participants in the conference were interested in the work of (Tamara Konstantinovna Zaychikova's) leasing section. [video shows Gorbachev and entourage walking along in lab coats over their outer clothing]

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] Hello.

[Woman] We are happy to see you at our complex. [video shows Gorbachev and the woman shaking hands] [end recording]

[Correspondent] Over the loudspeakers everyone present at the meeting could hear the conversation with the lessees:

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] How many people have you working here?

[Woman] We have three people here.

[Gorbachev] But are you, too, leasing or are you contracting?

[Woman] No, we are leasing.

[Gorbachev] Have you got a leasing agreement?

[Woman] We have.

[Gorbachev] Who is it signed by?

[Woman] By the farm chairman and the (?section leader).

[Gorbachev] By yourself, is that right?

[Woman] That's right.

[Gorbachev] What's in the leasing agreement?

[Second woman] Well, in the main there are the leasing fees and the rest is ours. That is, we pay 30 percent in leasing fees....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] It describes what's yours and what's (?allocated to) management [words indistinct]

[Second woman] We keep 70 percent of the amount we make, I mean annually. We tear the checks ourselves out of the check books. And then there's the amount that we are left with. We set aside a 15 percent reserve for apprenticeship and for leave, that's a 15 percent reserve.

[Second woman] Then from whatever is left we take what is needed for maintaining the (?section). Well, we (?don't really have one). Just one team leader for the time being, or rather we are keeping him for the time being. It is our first year and we were a bit scared to give him up. The rest is ours.

[Gorbachev] And how do (?things) look over 10 months?

[Second woman] Well, over 10 months we delivered 411 quintals in gained weight.

[Gorbachev] And does it show in your wages, what it comes to?

[Second woman] It shows in the wages.

[Woman] Yes, it comes to R280. [video shows Gorbachev talking to the two women, surrounded by a crowd] [end recording]

[Correspondent] The participants in the meeting were also interested in other, purely practical issues—how feed preparation was going, who controlled feed quality, what the production costs were, where the money from the kolkhoz' cash box went:

[Begin recording] [Woman] We still need, well, we want to build a palace of culture; we need a school....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] That's good, that's right, that's a good thing to do.

[Woman] We need this and that. We still don't have enough money, we need more, we have to work even better.

[Gorbachev] You know, I liked what I heard from one lessee who spoke at the obkom, and I like your way of thinking. You are thinking of your business and your revenues, but at the same time you are also thinking about the kolkhoz' revenues, about the fact that you have to build, make welfare provisions, that you need a palace and a school and probably a nursery. That's good. [end recording]

[Correspondent] There was also talk about leasing in milkmaid (Paramonova's) section. The guests' sincere and competent interest evokes an equally interested response from the lessees. They operate easily with figures and are well-informed about the economics of the kolkhoz' life:

[Begin recording] [Woman] Last year we obtained 5002 kg of milk, while this year, over the 10 months, we have already obtained 4460 kg per standard head.

[Man] Sixty-three.

[Gorbachev] For every head?

[Woman] For every head. We shall be trying to do even better.

[Gorbachev] That's good.

[Woman] Once we get 6000 we'll retire. [laughter]

[Gorbachev] Perhaps then you'll be trying a long time.

[Woman] No, in 3 years I'll have to....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] Let's do it like this: Get the 6000 in a year or 2 and then keep it like that for 10 years.

[Woman] I have 3 years before I retire, so that's when I have to obtain the 6000. [video shows Gorbachev talking to milkmaids in a cow shed] [end recording]

[Correspondent] And more meetings and conversations. [video shows the party going around farm facilities]

Conversation with (Tatyana Alekseyevna Kudinova). The calf breeder shared her professional secrets with the guests. [video shows Gorbachev and his group talking to a woman outdoors; calf in a corral; indistinct noises in the background]

The conversation was continued by the farm's chairman:

[Begin recording] [Chairman] We make provisions equally for ourselves, we replace 30 percent, 27-30 percent of our own herd—it's a fine one, it improves significantly from year to year—and we sell to the order of 200 head.

[Man] He sells both to the rayon and to the oblast.

[Gorbachev] And how much does it work out at? How much do you sell it for?

[Chairman] Well, of course, the pedigree stock sales work out significantly better for us. It's about twice as profitable to sell than selling even higher weight for slaughter.

[Gorbachev] You know, that's very important; with the same quantitative indicators you can have completely different revenues through the quality of product, of cattle.

[Chairman] [words indistinct]

[Gorbachev] I recall back in my native land, in Stravropol region, there was—he's now retired—a (Lavr Valentinovich Popov), chairman of the Pobeda Kolkhoz in Petrovskiy Rayon. The profitability of his farm was 211 percent. But the wheat was strong, the cattle pedigree, the eggs dietetic.

[Man] Everything on product quality.

[Gorbachev] That's right. All his products, all of them were quality. And another thing—they wouldn't write off a single spade, a single bucket, a single besom—there are no woods in Stravropol area, so they use besoms there—that wore out ahead of time without the chairman. They made 300,000 out of that. It's an enormous farm, Vitaliy Ivanovich knows it, they've 25,000 hectares of arable land, it's an enormous, powerful farm. They saved 300,000 on this agricultural inventory alone. No one would write off a single wooden shovel apart from the chairman if the time hadn't come. And I say to him: So why are you so tight-fisted? It's all right, he says, it's all in order, they're all used to it. [laughter] They are queueing up to join our farm. If I were such a terrible man, he says, they wouldn't be asking to join in.

You know, when we say that order, discipline and responsibility are not contrary to restructuring, but restructuring won't work without them, we all have to bear this in mind. We need order. Good order. There are of course those who think order means that you be quiet, like before, you don't say a word, like before. There are some who interpret it like that—order means that what I say is the right view and the opinions of all the rest are wrong. Whereas the working class, the principal masses, the peasantry, all of them, the main mass of our working people are not scared of any demands in the field of discipline, that there should be order. They are not, because that's normal. It's those who got used to doing nothing who are raising their voice, it's those people who this doesn't suit. (?But it's time....)

[Chairman, interrupting] They are the ones who find it hard.

[Gorbachev] They are the ones who find it hard. But it's those people who have to restructure themselves, they have to restructure. All the best to you.

[Voices] Thank you, goodbye. [video shows Gorbachev talking to farmers] [end recording]

[Correspondoent] One more front-ranking experience address. This is the 20th Party Congress Kolkhoz in Uritskiy Rayon. Here a family section of livestock breeders (Mutsanov) works. It is their farm. They produce the cheapest pork in Orel oblast—R100 for 1 quintal of gained weight. It was already dark when the participants in the meeting came to this farm.

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] Thank you for this meeting. I like your expression, the eyes, the face. That's the most important thing. You can't put it on, you know. If there's nothing inside, you get nothing.

[Unidentified woman] We've waited and waited....

[Gorbachev] Probably not everything is harmonious, not everything is coming out properly immediately, particularly with the cooperatives. A lot of critical comments were made in Krasnoyarsk. We were in Moscow and the workers there also made criticism, saying that some cooperative members have, well, very much forgotten, and maybe even lost, their consciences. But we will get to the bottom of that.

Just look, Vitaliy Ivanovich, last year cooperative members in the country gave R380 million worth of output, wasn't it, in a year? This year already they have given R4 billion in 9 months, R4 Billion. That is what we need. We need all this output, both the output and services, places to have things repaired, places to have things sewn. The cooperatives are doing all that, a great deal that is interesting and good. But there is a good deal which is still to be put right here. But we will put it right. As the saying goes, we ourselves will be up to it.

What do people like most about leasing? The lessee says: wages are wages. After all, he says, I earned almost the same as before on the tractor. But then, he says, everyone was giving me orders. And now, he says, I am my own boss.

[Farm workers] Yes, yes.

[Gorbachev] This is told of a leasing section growing potatoes. We thought everything through and did the calculations, and even when it came to sowing the potatoes in May we celebrated May, because we saw that we would be sowing for no more than 10 days, and we did it all just like that. They got a good yield even in that poor year for potatoes. People are already thinking for themselves and have everything (?at their disposal). It is good, comrades, that is good.

Just as with this tree, you have to plant it, then keep it safe and tend it, so you have to do the same with this new life of ours, you have to grow it and support all the new shoots. It depends on each one of us. Thank you for the meeting. We're off to have a word with the lessees. [video

shows Gorbachev, with Zaykov behind him, standing in the middle of a crowd in the dark; video then cuts to show Gorbachev talking to an old man in a different group]

[Unidentified man] (?As for me), say, the chairman now comes to me on the farm and I say: It's your turn to rest now.

[Gorbachev] That's right. The chairman of the 22d Party Congress Kolkhoz said the very same thing. In the past one had to run after everyone and and chase them up like a slave-driver. And now, he said, I stop and think what's what and go off to have a look at what people are doing. [(?Nikonov), speaking from behind the farmer] The chairman should serve you and provide for all....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] Each other. That's what I like. I liked what was said. That's the kind of chairmen, of managers we need. That's what the chairman....

[(?Zaykov)] Spiridonov.

[Gorbachev] Spiridonov. He says: I would now speak about the relations on the farm not as the relationship between manager and subordinate but as a relationship of partners.

[Man] Quite right. On an equal basis. [end recording]

[Correspondoent] That same day the seminar participants visited the old village of Gorodishche. [video shows milking in dairy] Quite recently people were leaving this farm; milk yields and harvests were low, and the feed crop lands were not encouraging. Today the For Communism Kolkhoz is famed in Uritskiy Rayon for having gone fully over to leasing. Five collectives on the farm operate on the buy-and-sell principle. (Aleksey Tikhonovich Semenov), the kolkhoz chairman, and (Anna Yegorovna Kaydanik), leader of a contracting section, told the guests from all over the country that never before had there been this kind of approach to the job there. Everyone looks after everything, takes care of everything.

[Begin recording] [(Semenov), escorting large group led by Gorbachev and Zaykov] There are 345 able-bodied kolkhozniks working on the kolkhoz. There is something in the order of 13 hectares of plowed fields per able-bodied kolkhoznik.

[Gorbachev] What is the productivity?

[(Semenov)] Labor productivity per head is 11,000 on the kolkhoz as a whole. Here on the farm it is R16,900 per worker and R40,000 in the feed production unit.

[Gorbachev, speaking to woman in middle of group] How many months have you been working in this kind of organization?

[(Kaydanik)] On lease?

[Gorbachev] Yes.

[(Kaydanik)] Since the new year.

[Gorbachev] The new year. Has anything changed?

[(Kaydanik)] Of course.

[Gorbachev] Did you work here before that?

[(Kaydanik)] We did.

[Gorbachev] What has changed?

[(Kaydanik)] What has changed is that we have started to count our money, our expenses, our profit. We count all our money, how much we have earned, how much we have spent, how much....

[Gorbacahev, interrupting] So the work is different?

[(Kaydanik)] Of course it is. Since the new manager came there has been more feed. Before that the feed was bad.

[Gorbachev] So on lease a good manager is no hindrance?

[(Kaydanik)] Of course.

[Gorbachev] The opposite.

[(Kaydanik)] We have started to replace the cows. A new herd....

[Gorbachev] You see, everything is working out: lease for one thing, new breeding stock second, and the feed base. Take out one link and things won't work.

[(Kaydanik)] Of course.

[Gorbachev] (?There's no leasing of nonexistent fodder?)

[Man] Yes, our feed base, comrades, was very weak.

[(Semenov)] Straw was produced, Mikhail Sergeyevich, even in Bashkiriya and the Ukraine.

[Gorbachev] It was made there?

[(Semenov)] It was made there. There was not even enough [word indistinct] straw, not to mention the whole range of other feed crops. But in the first year we solved the feed base issue. That was task number one for us.

Incidentally, lease contracting gave us a push. Contracting is (?going) very well for us. We started operating collective contracting initially, and we now we have gone over to leasing, the the collective has started to work in a completely different way.

[Gorbachev] Let's leave production aside now. How do you live?

[(Kaydanik)] Well. We have a well-appointed apartment. Do you know what is the only poor thing here? We do not have enough machines, for example, not enough washing machines, not enough sewing machines, not enough color televisions. We can't buy a nice overcoat or a nice hat in the store here. Those are the kind of problems we have. But on the whole everything here is fine.

[Another woman] We have butter, we have sausage.

[(Kaydanik] Yes, as for food produce we have everything. It is not bad. It's just industrial goods we don't have.

[Gorbachev] Food supplies aren't bad. Well, you know, that is in keeping with everything we say. First, food for the country, then goods, then housing. [words indistinct]

[(Kaydanik)] Housing is quite good.

[Gorbachev] So it seems two of your problems are already solved. As for goods, it is not you who solve the goods.

[Man] Quite. We are not the ones who solve the goods.

[Gorbachev] Just bear in mind, we are (?tackling) the goods problem thoroughly. How did you become the leader of a leasing section?

[Another man] Well, I became that by...[man changes thought] I was working on collective contracting.

[Gorbachev] You voted?

[Man] I believed in it, yes. We had elections.

[Gorbachev] There is a council?

[Man] There is a council.

[Gorbachev] And how many people are there in the collective?

[Man] Our collective is 17 people.

[Gorbachev] Are there conflicts?

[Man] Conflicts do happen, but so far we have resolved them by peaceful means. [general laughter]

[Gorbachev] That's right! We're even trying to resolve international conflicts by political means now. And you, too, all the more so.

[Man] Yes. I think that, of course, there will be disagreements. We would like more, well, we sell our output at state prices.

[Gorbachev] [passage indistinct] So you have already voted firmly in favor of lease, yes?

[All together] Yes, yes.

[Man] Lease contracting has taken root for ever on the kolkhoz.

[Gorbachev] It's right when the whole farm goes over to lease at the same time.

[Woman] Of course.

[Man] Yes, the whole farm.

[Gorbachev] Otherwise, when it's just one team, had the others watch and see that some people are earning more and are probably being given better fed or better equipment and then you get suspicion, criticism. But when it's the whole community then there's a different attitude. Am I right? Right?

[All] That's right. [end recording]

Scientific

Accomplishments of Shuttle Flight Reviewed

Shuttle Mission Described

LD1511172588 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The first flight of the Soviet reusable space shuttle Buran is safely over. The shuttle touched down at a special airfield at the Baykonur Cosmodrome at 0625 UTC, [Coordinated Universal Time] 12 kilometers from the launching complex from which it was placed into orbit around the Earth early in the morning by the Energiya rocket carrier. During this automatic flight all the systems and units of the shuttle had been tested thoroughly. The Buran shuttle made a little more than two orbits around the Earth. For the scientists and specialists who've developed it this was long enough, since this was a test flight, the first one if its kind. The main thing was to check the possibilities for the blast off of the new spaceship, attached to the most powerful booster rocket in the world, the Energiya type. Of course, it was also important to check an automatic landing on an airfield. As soon as the Buran shuttle was launched into space all the systems for landing were ready. With the help of sensitive antennas, ground services followed all the stages on the flight. Instant information about the progress of the flight was supplied regularly to the bunker

at the Baykonur Cosmodrome where scientists and mission control personnel were. At first the Buran shuttle was placed into an orbit and, with great precision with the help of an on board four computers, all the necessary operations in space were carried out with high precision. [sentence as heard] And then the program in the shuttle's electronic brain issued a command to the engine to start descent. Resembling a fireball, the 100-ton Buran shuttle rushed to the Earth. Data was supplied with enormous speed.

The shuttle was at first at an altitude of 250 km above the planet and within a few minutes it already entered the dense layers of the atmosphere. Plasma formed around the Buran shuttle. That meant that for 20 minutes there was no contact with the ground. During the descent some compenents of the shuttle's surface were heated to a temperature of more than 1,500 degrees Celsius. But the spaceship emerged unscathed, thanks to 38,000 heat resistant ceramic tiles covering its entire body. Flying in the atmosphere the spaceship was guided with the help of flaps, a rudder, and air brakes, just as an ordinary aircraft. An interceptor fighter plane, a MiG-25, took off then to meet the shuttle in midair. It carried a TV camera which rather quickly spotted the huge white winged shuttle with the emblem of the Soviet red banner on it. Having completed several final maneuvers at the approach to the airfield, the Buran shuttle touched down on the concrete tarmac at a speed of 340 kilometers per hour. Braking parachutes at once popped out of its tail and soon the first Soviet space shuttle, Buran, stood still on Earth. As we have already said, this first flight by the shuttle was unmanned, which makes it vastly different from the American shuttles. Specialists believe that the possibility of automatic guidance of the new spaceship is of great merit, although the Soviet shuttle's cabin has a volume of about 70 cubic metres and can hold 10 cosmonauts. But why was the first flight automatic? Here is what our correspondent has been told by an experienced Soviet cosmonaut, Yuriy Romanenko.

The space man said that a concept of the first unmanned test flight has been accepted in the Soviet Union. It's difficult to carry out such a flight since it requires a very high level of automatic and electronic devices and a more accurate ballistic backing. You can imagine how the shuttle, weighing scores of tons, flying in a circular orbit around the Earth at an altitude of more than 250 km, enters the dense layers of the atmosphere and, with an accuracy of several centimeters, softly touches down on a concrete runway. This is a great technical achievement. However, before the shuttle has been tested from every angle we won't risk the lives of cosmonauts aboard it. The Soviet cosmonaut Yuriy Romanenko said in conclusion that the Buran space shuttle combines the entire experience of the Soviet aerospace technology.

Leadership Congratulations

PM1711095988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Nov 88 Second Edition p 1

[Soviet party and government greetings message on maiden flight of the Buran orbiter]

[Text] To the scientists, designers, engineers, technicians, workers, construction workers, military specialists, and all the participants in the creation and launch of the multirole Energiya space transport system and the Buran orbiter

Dear comrades!

Soviet science and technology have won an outstanding new victory. The multirole Energiya space transport system and the reusable Buran orbiter have been successfully launched. The correctness of the engineering and design decisions adopted, the effectiveness of the experimental development methods, and the high reliability of all systems in these highly complex machines have been reaffirmed.

The creation of an automatic landing system, whose reliability was demonstrated by the successful completion of the Buran orbiter's flight, is a significant contribution to the development of aerospace technology.

The launch of Buran into low-earth orbit and its successful return to Earth open up a qualitatively new stage in the Soviet space research program and considerably expand our potential for space exploration. Henceforth Soviet space science will be able not only to place large payloads in various orbits, but also to return them to earth.

The utilization of a new space transport system in conjunction with expendable launchers and permanently manned orbiting complexes makes it possible to focus our main efforts and funds on those areas of space exploration which will yield the greatest economic returns for the national economy and raise science to greater heights.

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers ardently congratulate the scientists, designers, engineers, technicians, workers, construction workers, specialists at the Cosmodrome, mission control center, and telemetry control [komandno-izmeritelnyy] and landing complexes, and collectives at all enterprises and organizations that took part in the development, creation, and flight control of the Energiya launcher and the Buran craft.

This new success for Soviet space science has shown the whole world yet again the high level of our motherland's scientific and technical potential.

We wish you, dear comrades, great creative successes in your important and responsible work of creating modern equipment for peaceful space exploration for the sake of progress and for the good of our great motherland and all mankind.

CPSU Central Committee

USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

USSR Council of Ministers

Telemetry Data Analyzed

LD1600203200 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—Soviet experts today continued to analyze telemetry data registered by the Soviet space shuttle Buran's onboard equipment during its unmanned test flight Tuesday morning.

After being lifted off at 6:00 Moscow time from Baykonur Cosmodrome by the Energiya booster rocket, it touched down at 9:25 on a 4.5-kilometer runway 12 kilometers from the launch pad after completing two circles round earth.

The flight proceeded completely in keeping with the program.

One of Buran's distinctions from the U.S. space shuttles is its ability to fly unmanned. In the future this will enable cosmonauts to devote much more time to scientific experiments while riding on it.

Aleksander Dunayev, chief of the Soviet space agency Glavkosmos, said Soviet reusable spaceships will start to be used for manned missions after all their systems have been fully developed in the pilotless mode.

Buran's cabin, whose volume is some 70 cubic meters, is meant for two to four cosmonauts and there is enough accomodation also for six passengers.

Depending on their objectives, Buran's flights can last between seven to 30 days. It has been designed for 100 turnaround missions.

The most challenging and dramatic part of any flight is re-entry into the atmosphere when Buran, coasting down at a hypersonic speed, is enveloped by red-hot plasma flows.

The spaceship's nose has been covered with 38,000 heat-resistant ceramic tiles as protection against them.

To stop from orbit, Buran turns around and keeps its engines switched on for three minutes to slow down. It then turns about again and dips into the dense layers of the atmosphere at a strictly verified angle.

The engines keep it stable and at an altitude of 40 kilometers the spaceship changes over to aerodynamic controls as a gliding plane. Touching down at a speed of 340 kilometers per hour, it releases braking parachutes and comes to a halt after 1,100 to 1,200 meters of running.

The Soviet Union, according to Dunayev, is building several more shuttles which will be used to repair space equipment in orbit and return spent components to earth.

Not more than two to four flights are planned per year.

Shuttle Capabilities Described

LD1711102188 Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—"From now on Soviet space technology has not only means for the orbiting of a satellite and large-mass payloads but also facilities to bring them back to earth" is how Valentin Glushko and Yuriy Semyonov, designers of manned spaceships and stations, evaluate the first test flight of the reusable spaceship Buran on November 15.

Writing in today's newspaper, they point out that the Buran's cargo bay can freely accommodate a payload with a weight of up to 30 tons, for example, the basic module of such orbital station as Mir.

A special airfield has been built to receive the first reusable spaceship Buran. The airfield, which is located near the launch site at Baykonur Cosmodrome, is fitted out with all necessary up-to-date radio facilities which ensure landing in all weather conditions, including that in an automatic mode.

In a subsequent period when the orbiter will be brought into operation, it is planned to build another two specialised airfields in the country's east and west to expand the operational capability of the Energiya-Buran space rocket system.

"The Buran orbiter made its maiden flight without a crew on board," the designers write. "The flight confirmed the orbiter's ability to make flights, right up to an automatic landing. The duration of the first flight was only 205 minutes, i.e. the spaceship made slightly more than two orbits around the earth although the maximum duration of its autonomous flight (outside orbital complexes) may be up to seven days at the first stage and up to 30 days at the second one."

"The Buran spaceship launched into orbit by the Energiya booster rocket is designed for a manned flight," the article says. "This is why, before a manned flight is made, still more extended tests of the spaceship are planned for the developers to become fully convinced of the safety of the flight by means of this complex."

U.S., USSR Space Programs Compared

PM1711103388 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Nov 88 Second Edition pp 1, 6

["Our special correspondents Aleksandr Nemov and Yuriy Kolesnikov report from the Flight Control Center": "Celestial Breakthrough"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The eyes of all those present in the Flight Control Center were fixed on the screen. On the screen was "Buran," ready for its leap into space. Again it occurred to one that it is outwardly reminiscent

of the U.S. space shuttle. Approximately the same size, the same "tailless" appearance and sweptback wings, similar freight-carrying capacity into orbit and back. But the similarity to the shuttle should not be seen as evidence of any borrowing. In fact, it is due to the effect of objective laws governing the design option for a specific technical task. The U.S. and Soviet engineers' similar objectives naturally meant that the creative effort followed similar lines.

But not in all areas did the two countries' specialists follow the same route. The Americans, for example, have combined the rocket and the orbital craft. They use the solid fuel boosters and the enormous detachable tank of liquid fuel and oxidant only for putting the spacecraft into orbit. They are not suitable for anything else. We, however, use for the same purpose the powerful multipurpose "Energiya" booster rocket, which is capable of putting into space not only reusable craft, but any other large and bulky items of freight.

There are also objective reasons for the time span of the Soviet and U.S. air-space systems programs. According to state commission chairman V.Kh. Doguzhiyev, it is largely due to the cost of the complex space technology. The $10 billion taken from the U.S. taxpayer for the shuttle program gives an idea of the scale of our expenditure too.

Financial constraints forced us to make a choice. Instead of the shuttles being constructed by the Americans, we concentrated efforts and resources for a while on creating long-term orbital stations and obtained the "Salyuts" and the "Mir," which have each operated for several years, whereas NASA had the regularly used space shuttle. Both space powers are now expanding their programs. We by creating "Burans," and the Americans with the commissioning of a large orbital station, planned for the early nineties.

As a recent U.S. scientists' report to Congress says, "neither country is outstripping the other in space. The results of comparisons vary depending on aspects of activity. Perhaps the very concept of a 'space race' is inappropriate in the present situation." One could not have put it better.... [passage omitted]

Soviet-French Space Mission Set for 26 Nov

LD1611181988 Moscow TASS in English 1759 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—The Soviet-French space crew is to lift off at 18:50 Moscow time on November 26, a TASS correspondent was told at the Soviet space agency Glavkosmos.

The cosmonauts are in the midst of pre-launch preparations on Baykonur Cosmodrome in central Asian Kazakhstan.

Either of two cosmonaut teams will be selected for the mission. The first includes Soviet spacemen Aleksandr Volkov and Sergey Krikalev and the first French astronaut, Jean-Loup Chretien.

The other includes Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Serebrov of the USSR and Pilot Michel Tognini of France.

Chretien took part in the first Soviet-French space flight in 1982, which lasted eight days. The second mission will take 26 days. It is expected to include a large package of scientific experiments and studies as well as a spacewalk.

If it is Chretien who is chosen for the second mission, the experience he has gained during the first flight will certainly come in handy. Many remember his smile and his words during the 1982 mission when he exclaimed: "Weightlessness is wonderful. It gives you a feeling without comparison."

The final choice of the crew, who will work aboard the Soviet space platform Mir, will be made by the commission in charge on the eve of blastoff.

Even if he does not make it this time, the first French spaceman's colleague Tognini can already say he's found happiness during his stay in the joint program: He has married a young Soviet woman by the name of Yelena who is a physical education instructor at the cosmonaut training center outside Moscow. They are a happy and cohesive family.

Space Mission Previewed

PM1511090188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Special correspondent B. Konovalov report "Before the Long Flight. The Soviet-French Space Crews' News Conference"]

[Text] The Soviet-French space crews were introduced to journalists and gave their first news conference at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center 10 November 1988. The commander of the first crew is Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Aleksandr Volkov. The crew further includes flight engineer Sergey Krikalev, who has not worked in space before, and research cosmonaut Jean-Loup Chretien, the first French cosmonaut. The backup crew is made up of Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Aleksandr Viktorenko, crew commander; Hero of the Soviet Union Aleksandr Serebrov, flight engineer; and the new space recruit, French pilot Michel Tognini.

The launch is scheduled for 26 November. Yu.A. Gremitskikh, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman who conducted the news conference, stated that President Francois Mitterrand of France will be coming to Baykonur at the head of a big delegation.

A.I. Dunayev, chief of the USSR Main Administration for the Creation and Utilization of Space Technology, expressed satisfaction with the course of the 22 years of Soviet-French space cooperation. In the next few years nine more space projects are to be carried with Soviet and French participation. Answering questions about the commercial side of the "Aragats" project (the name of the upcoming spaceflight), A.I. Dunayev said that the French cosmonaut's flight will cost the Soviet side an estimated $21 million. The French side will pay back approximately 10 percent of this expenditure. A Soviet specialists' visit to France was paid for, and in addition the French scientific equipment will be used by Soviet cosmonauts in the future.

A.I. Dunayev also announced that tests on the "Energiya" rocket and the "Buran" spacecraft are drawing to a close. The launch date will be announced 11 November.

Jean-Loup Chretien and Michel Tognini arrived in Zvezdnyy on 15 November 1986 to prepare for the second Soviet-French manned spaceflight. At first they underwent general space training. There were briefings for the two of them, they were acquainted with space equipment and simulators, and medical tests were carried out.

Exercises with the crews started on 1 February 1988. The first crew's flight engineer fell sick and was replaced in March by Sergey Krikalev. For him the training was especially hard.

Suvorov's principle "hard training makes for an easy battle" is the essence of the ideology behind cosmonaut training at Zvezdnyy. An effort is made to equip "pupils" with the maximum of knowledge, both theoretical and practical. The future sky-dwellers are even trained for their encounter with weightlessness during the general space training program.

Very brief encounters with weightlessness can be created on the Il-76 laboratory-aircraft when it plummets, as it were, from high altitude. However, even these moments are of tremendous importance because they help cosmonauts to gain a better understanding of what it will be like up there, in space. For Jean-Loup Chretien all this is quite familiar, since he has intimate knowledge of weightlessness. Michel Tognini, on the other hand, dreaded these first encounters, when the body "revolts" and refuses to obey the will of its "master." However, his misgivings proved unfounded.

The cosmonauts exercised on the training craft "Soyuz-TM" and a dummy of the "Mir-Kvant" complex and also prepared carefully for the scientific experiments. For the event of an emergency descent from orbit, landings in a wintry forest and at sea were simulated.

When I asked Jean-Loup Chretien what was most difficult for him during the preparations for his second spaceflight, he replied without hesitation:

The training sessions for going out into open space. This is very interesting but very hard work.

In Zvezdnyy they had to get used to the semi-rigid spacesuit which is used for spacewalks; they tried it out in conditions of weightlessness in the space simulation test chamber where the space vacuum is created. However, the main training took place under water in the hydrolaboratory. Here, in their spacesuits in a dummy station, they rehearsed everything that they will have to do in open space.

Unless there are any surprises, the launch of the first crew will go ahead. And Jean-Loup Chretien, the first French cosmonaut, will also become the first Frenchman to spacewalk. The final decision as to which of the "trios" will be launched into space is to be taken at the launch site.

The crews will leave for Baykonur 12 November.

And the inhabitants of the orbiting home—Vladimir Titov, Musa Manarov, and Valeriy Polyakov—are already getting ready to welcome the guests.

In September the cargo craft "Progress" delivered to the orbital station all the equipment necessary for the implementation of the "Aragats" project—the long stay in space by a French cosmonaut. Yes, for the French a month in space is a long stay. For Soviet cosmonauts a long stay now means a year. On 10 November, the day of the news conference, V. Titov and M. Manarov were getting ready to surpass Yuriy Romanenko's record stay in space—326 days. From now on they are flying into the unknown.

V. Titov and M. Manarov are due to return to earth 21 December together with the French cosmonaut. The Soviet cosmonauts who will be arriving with him on the "Mir" station will work there for 5 months together with V. Polyakov. At the end of their flight it is planned to dock the first reequipment module with the orbital complex. The station's premises will be enlarged. The module also includes a convenient hatch for access to open space.

'Mir' Station Construction, Missions Detailed

LD1211183188 Moscow TASS in English 1658 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 12 (TASS)—Soviet cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, aboard the orbital station "Mir" since December 1987, today broke the endurance record for stay in space, established by their colleague Yuriy Romanenko last year, having spent 326 days in space. Doctors said that the insignificant changes in their weight and the volume of muscles were

not higher than those of Romanenko. Anatoliy Grigoryev, director of the Institute of Medico-Biological Problems of the USSR Health Ministry, said no worsening of the state of health of the cosmonauts was expected.

It is believed that Titov, 41, and Manarov, 37, will return to Earth on December 21 after spending a year in space. They will land with a French cosmonaut, who together with the two Soviet colleagues is to fly to "Mir" on November 26. The main crew consists of commander Aleksandr Volkov, engineer Sergey Krikalev and research cosmonaut Jean-Loup Chretien. Their back ups are Aleksandr Viktorenko, Aleksandr Serebrov and Michel Tognini.

This is the third and the longest visiting expedition to be received by Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov. Soviet-Bulgarian and Soviet-Afghan crews visited the "Mir" complex in June and August-September respectively. Doctor Valeriy Polyakov, who was a member of the latter, stayed on the station and will continue working with the two Soviet cosmonauts from the Soviet-French crew who will stay aboard the orbital complex till next April.

"Mir" is the first permanently manned orbital station in the history of space exploration. Unlike its predecessors "Salyut" stations, it has six instead of two docking units. The astrophysical module Kvant was docked to one of them in April 1987. At the final stage of the flight Volkov and Krikalev (if they fly and not their back-ups) will have to dock to the station one more module, weighing 20 tons. In addition to life-support systems it will be fitted with a compartment for making space walks as well as the means of conveyance outside the station.

There are plans to dock the "Mir" station with reusable spacecraft. The first such spacecraft, Buran, is scheduled to make its automatic test flight on November 15. According to the head of the Space Agency Glavkosmos, Aleksandr Dunayev, several such vessels are being built in the Soviet Union. They will make not more than 2 to 4 flights a year and will not be used for putting into orbit space vehicles as American shuttles.

As before, this task will be performed by reliable and much more cheaper booster rockets "Soyuz" and "Proton". Reusable spacecraft will carry out the repair of space equipment and deliver spent components to earth. Manned missions will follow after the flight in automatic mode is fully mastered. The cabin of the "Buran" crew can take 2 to 4 cosmonauts. There is also room for six passengers. The Soviet 105-ton reusable spacecraft, which rides into space piggyback the booster rocket Energiya, can put into orbit 30 tons of cargo.

Soviet Inspection Group To Tour Antarctica

LD1011140388 Moscow TASS in English 1142 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires November 10 TASS—TASS Correspondent Yevgeniy Alekseyev reports:

"Antarctica—a zone of peace and cooperation" is the motto under which the first Soviet Antarctic inspection group will work.

The group left the Argentine city of Rio Grande, which situated in the country's extreme south, for Antarctica on Wednesday. The expedition includes representatives of various Soviet research organizations.

The Soviet inspection tour will be made fully in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty concluded in 1959. One of the main purposes of the tour is to monitor the fulfilment of the obligations of the countries which are parties to the treaty to use Antarctica only for peaceful purposes and to be mindful of environmental protection.

As is known, the Antractic treaty bans the setting up of military bases there, the testing of weapons or the dumping of radioactive wastes. Over the time that has passed since the treaty was signed, many states sent their inspectors there. The countries which are parties to the treaty regard the treaty in earnest and see to it that the obligations under the treaty be strictly implemented.

The Soviet expedition will tour the Antarctic stations of other countries, will get acquainted with their experience in organizing the operation of scientific stations, with their experiments, and with measures to improve the living conditions of the polar researcher, and will establish useful contacts in the interests of an all-round cooperation.

International AIDS Symposium Opens in Moscow

LD1011212788 Moscow TASS in English 1919 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 10 TASS—Medics of the USSR and Belgium started a scientific dialogue on problems of AIDS. This is the theme of a traditional annual week of the medical science of the two countries, which opened here. Such meetings are devoted to topical problems of the health services. Reports on diagnostics, treatment, prevention, epidemiology and virology of this grave disease are on the programme of this meeting. The guests will visit scientific centres of Moscow.

The exchange of experience, of achievements of scientists of different countries are of importance for progress in combatting AIDS. Such is the consensus of deputy general secretary of the Belgian Ministry of Public health and Environment Jacques Francois and Valentin Pokrovskiy, president of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, who take part in this meeting.

Valentin Pokrovskiy said that Soviet specialists have been vigorously cooperating in this area with scientists from socialist countries, participating in WHO programmes. They established contacts with colleagues from the USA, Australia, FRG, Great Britain, France.

Prominent epidemologist, Pokrovsky supervises research into AIDS in the USSR. This research is conducted at some 40 scientific centres. "Comparing with other countries, the situation in the USSR is relatively favourable so far," he said. "93 persons infected with AIDS virus have been spotted. They are now under medical observation, and most of them are given azidotimidin, the medicine checking the progress of the disease. Two of three AIDS cases died. The third one, under the observation over two years, now feels satisfactory and holds a job."

It was said at the symposium that more than 400 diagnosing laboratories function in the USSR. Their number will double next year. There are some 50 centres where everyone can undergo an examination for AIDS on an anonymous basis. Examination for AIDS are now obligatory for blood donors, pregnant women, people in the risk groups—drug addicts, homosexuals.

Valentin Pokrovskiy said that dignostic systems are created in the USSR. Fundamental research into AIDS is conducted. A detailed molecular model of the virus of the dangerous disease has been created. The structures of its main molecules have been described. "We believe that the study of the effect of each of them can bring us closer to finding out the mechanism of the development of the disease, and hence of the ways of its treatment," the scientist said.

Military

Correspondent Visits Unfinished Krasnoyarsk Site

LD1611123888 Moscow TASS in English 0603 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Krasnoyarsk November 15—By TASS Diplomatic Correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy:

Construction work has been suspended at the Krasnoyarsk radar facility, a four hours' ride by car from Krasnoyarsk, East Siberia's biggest city, and the gaping window openings of the unfinished buildings are a queer sight to local people who are used to saving heat in the freezing temperatures of Siberian winter.

The whole world is following events at the Krasnoyarsk radar which has recently popped into headline news, political speeches and become an issue at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons at Geneva.

Cold winds from the nearby taiga forests are sweeping the bare walls of the cheerless buildings, while snow-covered boxes with radar equipment are still piled on the site (in accordance with a moratorium announced by the USSR in October 1987, all work at the radar facility was stopped).

However, the unfinished buildings and the packed equipment have led to charges that the Soviet Union violated the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems, or the ABM Treaty, for short.

The radar in question, the U.S. Administration claims, is designed to warn the Soviet Union of a missile attack from the north-west. Consequently, they conclude, the radar is a violation of the ABM treaty.

Though it is an open secret that the facility was meant for different purposes, the United States holds its own.

On more than one occasion, the Soviet side has explained that the Krasnoyarsk radar facility was designed and built for quite different reasons, as the idea to construct it was conceived in the late 70's, when Soviet researchers were set the task of creating a principally new system to track the multitude of space objects now orbiting the near space.

The site for this "Space inspection post" of sorts was chosen deliberately, as the sky above Krasnoyarsk is a veritable crossroads of numerous space orbits, so a radar there can be compared to a traffic observation post at a busy crossing.

At the invitation of the USSR, a group of U.S. congressmen visited the Krasnoyarsk radar construction site in September 1987, an opportunity to make sure that the facility was intended exclusively for peaceful exploration of space.

The visitors filmed all they saw and took thousands of photographs. Judging by their statements following the visit, no violations of the ABM treaty had been found.

Yet, the United States sticks to its guns and claims the radar is a violation of the ABM Treaty.

Then, to alleviate the American side's concern, even if it is unfounded, Mikhail Gorbachev suggested on September 16, 1988 that an international centre be established on the basis on the Krasnoyarsk radar facility to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

A month later, a follow-up decision by the Soviet government transferred the facility to the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Meanwhile, the moratorium on all kinds of work at the radar facility continues.

Hardly any comment is needed here, as it is clear that the USSR is firmly and consistently in favour of strict compliance with the ABM Treaty as it was signed in 1972.

Moreover, the Soviet Union is doing all in its powers to achieve that goal.

At the same time, the Soviet side has expressed its concern in connection with violations of the ABM Treaty by the United States, namely, the deployment of a large phased-array radar in Greenland and a similar project in Great Britain.

It is evident that preservation of the ABM Treaty is an important goal. Yet there is another goal, probably a greater one, to preserve the treaty as a foothold for further advance and a groundwork for the future of the existing system of legal treaties.

So, the limitation of weapons, primarily strategic arms, ninges on the future of the ABM treaty whose demise would inevitably undermine the foundation on an arms limitation process.

General Comments on Missile Units' Preparedness
PM1711110588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Nov 88 First Edition p 1

[Commentary by Army General I. Tretyak, commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces, on skill competitions among Air Defense missile units under the general heading: "Combat Training: Quality and Efficiency; 180 Seconds of Dueling Decided Who Would be the Best in the Air Defense Missile Troops"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The competitions showed the degree of combat readiness of our air defense missile units. If we are talking about firing, it was distinguished by its rapidity. The targets were hit, but I can see problems behind the missilemen's skill. For example, all firing is now conducted under jamming conditions, and this is correct: The enemy will not allow himself to be shot down so easily. But those who have set up the jamming are on the ground. I think, as a rule, that they should be set up in drones. This would be closer to real conditions.

Another aspect of the work: Equipment with automated systems has stopped many from analyzing the situation and making decisions independently. But everything is possible in a real battle. Why do officers get lost administratively if they do not have their computer "nannies"? Primarily because many of them do not have sound experience. They did not have time to get it because they moved too quickly up the service ladder. I am not in favor of holding back this growth, but it must not occur to the detriment of the work. During training sessions the commanders "got stuck" when it came to identifying targets.

A positive factor is that divisions and regiments can go straight out to the training center and immediately start missile firing. Our defense doctrine dictates a high level of readiness. It has managed, albeit not completely, to break the habit of shilly-shallying, and predictable routines. But this does not come easily. They carried on in the same old way here too, during the competitions. They decided to fire at ground targets, but they did not prepare for this well. The target situation was methodologically wrong. For this kind of reason even the most interesting work can be ruined. They will have to work and think properly.

The people were thanked and congratulated on their triumph. Everything was cordial and informal. But I couldn't help thinking: Why shouldn't participation in such important events be reflected in the officer's certification? But we limit ourselves to official jargon: He knows the equipment, we say.... We need to think about posterity. Some officer symbols need to be introduced so that our sons and grandsons have a souvenir as testimony of military prowess.

The contests are an active form of competition. It is successful, but the best way to propagandize the experience gained should not be forgotten. The victor's order is not to hide his experience but to pass it on, considering it an honor if it takes root. The common cause only stands to gain from this.

In a word, the competition brought to light a number of problems which we shall resolve.